

Hafa Adai!

Teens included in Toys for Tots programs. **PAGE 2**
IT&E donates \$100K worth of solar lamps. **PAGE 3**

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DUA program allotted \$11M

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Disaster Unemployment Aid program that is being handled by the CNMI Department of Labor has been allotted \$11 million to help workers who were laid off or have been working shorter hours as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu or Typhoon Mangkhut.

See DUA on Page 4

NMI, Skymark seal partnership

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI and Skymark Airlines sealed their partnership last week after representatives of both parties

signed a joint promotional agreement that would re-open direct flights between Japan and Saipan.

Skymark's inaugural flight to Saipan is set in the first quarter of 2019.

See SKYMARK on Page 4



Saipan-based lion, tiger now in Colorado

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Lambert the lion and Tasha Joy the tiger, the last wild animals at the former Saipan Zoo, are now in Colorado, in the keeping of The Wild Animal Sanctuary near Keenesburg.

The pair of big cats left the island last Wednesday evening.

Zoo owner Frank Aldan said he had been looking for a new home for the two 15-year-old animals since the zoo was destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015. The zoo has been closed since then. "What was left of the zoo was not fit for animals like them," he added.

After an exchange of communications with the non-profit sanctuary staff, Aldan said he decided to send the lion and the tiger to Colorado.

He approached Samaritan's Purse,
See LION on Page 4

Lambert the lion is now in the keeping of The Wild Animal Sanctuary near Keenesburg, Colorado.

THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY



Atalig says he may now be eligible for court-appointed counsel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, through his private counsel, has in-

Skymark president Masahiko Ichie and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres seal their partnership last week after representatives of both parties signed a joint promotional agreement that would re-open direct flights between Japan and Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

» Girlfriend's arraignment today in federal court

formed the federal court that he may be eligible for a court-appointed counsel.

During the initial appearance/arraignment last Friday, defense counsel Denny Nie of the O'Connor, Berman, Horey, and Banes law firm asked U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for the release of Atalig's pre-

vious financial disclosure affidavit to their law firm due to changes in the mayor's financial status.

See ATALIG on Page 4



INSIDE



BUSINESS

The rumble of armored police trucks and the hiss of tear gas filled central Paris.

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ASIA

New Zealand police say they found a body they believe to be that of a British tourist.

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LIFE & STYLE

Julia Roberts' motherly instincts play a big part of her latest film, "Ben Is Back."

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Local

Teens included in Toys for Tots programs

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Young Professionals, which works with the U.S. Marine Corps in Guam to implement the Toys for Tots program in the CNMI, has included teenagers among its recipients and not just children under the age of 12.

SYP co-chair Shane Villanueva told *Saipan Tribune* there is a misconception that the program is only for children and toddlers. "These goes from 1-day-old all the way to 18. So, we're also looking for shirts, clothing items, headphones, and other stuff that are for young adults."

"We're looking at our goal of collecting up to 3,000 toys and other items. We're working with the Marine Corps and [the Federal Emergency Management Agency] to see if they can supplement some of these items."

He added that they are hoping the program would sustain the holiday spirit despite the destructive force of Super Typhoon Yutu last October. "Our major thing

right now is to get these unwrapped gifts delivered [as soon as possible]," said Villanueva. "We're trying to do as much as we can to keep the Christmas spirit alive."

Villanueva said they will be accepting new and undraped toys and other items up to Dec. 14. Donated gifts can be dropped at 360 Revolving Restaurant, AON Insurance, Bank of Guam (Chalan Piao), Capricciosa, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Great Harvest Bread Co., Hyatt Regency Saipan, Joeten Shopping Center (Garapan and Susupe), Kanoa Resort Saipan, Latte Built Gym, Lollipops Inc., Marianas Visitors Authority, Shall Gas Station (Susupe), Tony Roma's, and the Triple J Truckload Store.

SYP works with agencies like the Division of Youth Services and Karidat Social Services to distribute the toys. "[DYS and Karidat] tell us how many [toys and other items] they need. For what gender—male or female—and by age range."

They also received a huge

boost from the Sons and Daughters Club of Guam, which raised \$2,700 in a concert they organized last month in San Diego. Two Lovers Point, Jason J., Swells, 56 Hope, Anthony Francisco, Tribal Theory, Orlon Saralu, and Leilani Wolfgram were some of the artists who took part in the fundraising concert last Nov. 18.

Villanueva said they will be using the money for the program. "We're going to take some of that money and donate that for Toys for Tots. We'll be buying toys locally at stores to support our local vendors. ...We will also be using some of the money in hosting a mini-carnival, which we'll be partnering with DYS that is actually happening on Dec. 13, 15, 20, and 22."

Marine Corps reservist Major Bill Hendricks founded the Toys of Tots program in 1947 that is now run by the USMC Reserve, which annually gives out toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy Christmas gifts to their children.

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IT&E donates \$100K worth of solar lamps

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Groups involved in the recovery and relief efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu joined IT&E last week as the company turned \$100,000 worth of solar lamps that will be handed out to the public at the Office of the Governor.

IT&E bought over 1,000 pieces of solar lamps and presented them to representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. military, the Torres administration, and other non-profit organizations.

IT&E CNMI general manager Rose Soledad said they are glad to do their part in helping the CNMI recover. "We are your community partners. We're glad to do this for everyone."

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog praised IT&E as one of the companies that always thinks of the welfare of the CNMI. "On behalf of the governor, the administration, and our people, thank you IT&E. ...It would go a long way in helping the community.

"We're hoping for a... speedy recovery for everyone to get back on their feet," he added.

Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

said that IT&E's donation is timely "since it is the light of Christ that we're celebrating this Christmas season. Christ himself is the light. So, what a perfect way to give this to our people who are still experiencing darkness."

Lions Club board member Mario Dimayuga said their organization would help distribute the solar lamps. "We're glad to be part of this. We're entrusted to distribute some of the solar lamps. ... We're happy to assist in the distribution."

Virginia Villagomez, the governor's authorized representative, said the lamps would ease the situation of some of those who still have no power. "It would help...in putting some light out there in the tents of the survivors."

FEMA regional administrator Bill Roache said they are glad to work with a great group of people in the recovery efforts. "We're one team and one fight. FEMA is a partner of the territory. [FEMA Region IX administration] Bob Fenton was here recently to check on the situation. He was happy with the progress that has been made but we have a lot more to do. This is just a part of getting things done and helping the survivors, so we



JON PEREZ

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, sixth from left, joins IT&E officials and representatives of the CNMI's federal partners and organizations involved in the recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu in last week's donation of solar lamps.

appreciate IT&E. To make it a little bit safer and comfortable for our survivors, who have been patient."

U.S. Department of Defense coordinating officer Harry Elliott said they are privileged to help the people of the CNMI. "We're blown away by the commitment the public and private sector have shown. ... It is really impressive to see the private sector companies that stepped up. It is wonderful to see people pulling others before themselves."

Marianas Young Professionals executive director Gerard van Gils said that, although they are a small non-profit organization, they have

been able to do big things because of the many partners that assist them. "We were able to bring relief directly to people's doorsteps. ... We were able to

help in reaching the people who are in most need. We offer our services, love, attention of our volunteers, and our entire organization to help bring

relief. We're grateful to IT&E, the CNMI government, and our federal and military partners. We're going to try our best to serve the people."

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US govt seeks rehearing in reversal of couple's conviction

The U.S. government is requesting the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to conduct a re-hearing in connection with its ruling that reversed the conviction of a woman for harboring an illegal alien and the conviction of her husband for aiding and abetting the harboring.

The Ninth Circuit judges held that the evidence was sufficient to find that Lili Zhang Tydingco harbored an illegal alien and that Francisco Muñoz Tydingco intended to help Mrs. Tydingco commit the crime. However, because of

an error in the jury instruction, there may have been a miscarriage of justice.

Circuit Judge Susan P. Graber issued the opinion. Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas and U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Washington Robert S. Lasnik concurred with the ruling.

In an order last Tuesday, Graber, Thomas, and Lasnik granted the U.S. government's motion to allow it to file its petition for a rehearing by Jan. 10, 2019.

The judges also allowed the U.S. government to file a peti-

tion for rehearing en banc. An en banc refers to a session in which a case is heard before all the judges of the court.

The Ninth Circuit judges held that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's instruction defining "harbor" was erroneous because it did not require the jury to find that the Tydingcos intended to violate the law, and the error was not harmless.

The judges said the District Court's instruction defining "reckless disregard" was plainly erroneous because it

did not require the jury to find that Mrs. Tydingco subjectively drew an inference that the alien was, in fact, an alien and was in the United States unlawfully.

The panel held that the instruction may have affected the outcome of the trial, and the error constitutes a miscarriage of justice, warranting a new trial, because the jury could have convicted the couple on an invalid legal theory.

With the reversal of the convictions, the Ninth Circuit remanded the case to the District Court for a new trial.

CNMI'S GOT TALENT 8

The show must go on!

Bridge Capital LLC intends to go ahead with its annual CNMI's Got Talent competition this year, this time on an outdoor stage at the Garapan Fishing Base on Dec. 13, starting at 6pm.

This event, CNMI's Got Talent 8, is free and open to the public.

As always, CNMI's Got Talent is a Christmas-themed event. This year's show will feature performances from

11 winners of past competitions, who will be showcasing a range of talents including vocal and instrumental music of many genres, dance, and stage magic.

The event will be hosted by the CNMI's own Brad Ruszala and will feature special Christmas messages from our community leaders.

This is an outdoor family event, and all are welcome to attend. No tickets or reservations are required. Limited refreshments will be available, and guests are encouraged to bring snacks or a picnic, along with non-alcoholic beverages.

For more information, contact events@bccnmi.com. (PR)

LION

From Page 1

which has its own DC-8 cargo plane and has been flying to Saipan to assist in relief efforts, and the organization offered to transport the animals—a male African lion and a Siberian tiger—to the wildlife sanctuary in Colorado.

According to Samaritan's Purse Saipan team leader Mark Langham, the zoo owners approached the organization since they had access to an aircraft.

"The zookeeper reached to the aid community to see if it was possible. A similar request had been made in 2014 after Typhoon Souledor," Langham told *Saipan Tribune*. "We had an empty plane going back and were asked to provide transportation," adding that it was the Saipan Zoo's initiative to send the big cats to a sanctuary.

"...We know the people of Saipan will miss Lambert and Tasha and we hope they will come to Colorado to visit them," Langham told *Saipan Tribune*.

In a separate press release, Aldan is quoted as saying: "It breaks my heart to see them



Tasha Joy the tiger checks out her new surroundings at The Wild Animal Sanctuary near Keenesburg, Colorado.

THE WILD ANIMAL SANCTUARY

leave, but I know they will go to a place where they can socialize with their own kind."

"It is good that they can be in a sanctuary. Colorado's one of the largest in the U.S.," he added.

Aldan acquired the lion and the tiger from the Southern Comfort Ranch in Guam. The animals were 2 years old when the ranch shut down.

"I took care of them since they were [small], but they now need to find a better home. The sanctuary will be that home for them," he said.

According to Samaritan's Purse, the DC-8 aircraft carrying the big cats landed in Denver last Dec. 5, 2018. Both big cats, according to the same statement, were reported to be about 60 percent underweight.

Casey Craig, chief opera-

tions officer for The Wild Animal Sanctuary, reported the tiger and lion were severely malnourished, but now will be able to recover with proper nutrition and medical care.

"A bear and leopard had already perished at the zoo, so we were very grateful for this opportunity," said Craig.

U.S.-based Tigers In America helped coordinate numerous parts of the rescue as well as funded thousands of pounds of fresh food and medical care for the cats over a number of days leading up to their transport. Organization president William Nimmo traveled with the rescue team in order to continue coordinating logistics along the route.

The Wild Animal Sanctuary specializes in rehabilitating large carnivores and

providing them with large acreage habitats to live in.

Lions and Tigers can live up to 23 years in captivity, so at 15 years of age, Lambert and Tasha Joy will have the opportunity to join others of their own species and roam freely during the remaining years of their lives.

The Wild Animal Sanctuary is a 789-acre refuge for more than 450 lions, tigers, bears, wolves and other carnivores rescued from abusive situations.

Saipan Tribune archives show Aldan relating that Soudelor heavily damaged the zoo and that re-opening it would "take years." The story was reported in late September 2017, two years after Soudelor.

Samaritan's Purse flew to Saipan just a few days after Super Typhoon Yutu. Using the same DC-8 cargo aircraft, it brought in over 80 tons of relief supplies to accommodate over 6,000 households on both Saipan and Tinian.

The organization's supplies included tarpaulins for makeshift roofs, generators, solar lights, and water filtration units. The organization also brought in a medical team. (With PR Newswire)

on Saipan until they could secure and launch regular scheduled flights.

"This partnership is part of Gov. Torres' priority to revitalize the Japan market and re-establish economic and cultural relationships between the people of Japan and the Marianas."

Skymark is Japan's third largest carrier and the first low-cost carrier in Japan. It is also the only carrier that offers domestic flights based at Haneda International Airport in Ota, Tokyo.

Charter flights would kick off Skymark's operations

SKYMARK

From Page 1

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who is still in Washington D.C. to attend the funeral of former President George H.W. Bush, was joined in Japan by Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and MVA managing director Chris Concepcion.

They met with Skymark

president Masahiko Ichie and the company's other top executives in their headquarters in Tokyo.

Ichie had confirmed to CNMI officials that they would work more in launching direct flights between Japan and Saipan by March, which is still pending government approval and the availability of their aircraft.

Charter flights would kick off Skymark's operations

through new direct flights.

MVA would assist Skymark in marketing and promoting the CNMI in Japan as part of the joint promotional agreement that both parties signed.

The administration, in a previous statement before the signing, said the agreement was a product of their shared commitment to bring the Japanese market back to Saipan

A federal grand jury indicted the couple for allegedly receiving money to harbor two illegal Chinese aliens, including a child they enrolled at a public school.

In June 2016, a federal court jury rendered a unanimous guilty verdict, finding Mrs. Tydingco guilty of one count of harboring an alien and Mr. Tydingco guilty of aiding and abetting the harboring.

On Dec. 9, 2016, Manglona sentenced Mrs. Tydingco

to 10 months in prison with credit for time served. She sentenced Mr. Tydingco to 21 months in prison, with credit for time served.

The Tydingcos, through counsels Steven Pixley and Bruce Berline, appealed, asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse their conviction and vacate their sentence.

The couple have remained out of custody while their appeal was pending. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

sistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley agreed to continue the hearing for today.

As of last Thursday, Pixley was handling a trial before an administrative law judge in the U.S. District Court of Guam.

Last Thursday, Mayor Atalig pleaded not guilty to a superseding indictment that charged him with four charges—conspiracy, wire fraud, theft from program receiving federal funds, and one count of false statements.

Evelyn Atalig faces the same charges.

The superseding indictment accused Mayor Atalig and Ms. Atalig of making CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan using false pretenses.

Despite the filing of the original indictment last August, Efraim Atalig was re-elected as Rota mayor last Nov. 13.

ATALIG

From Page 1

Manglona stated that electronic case files access was just given to Atalig's counsel for his document and that they may file a motion after reviewing that docket entry.

Last Sept. 5, Manglona determined that Atalig is not eligible for a court-appointed counsel.

Manglona said Atalig would be able to hire his own lawyer to represent him.

This prompted the mayor to hire the O'Connor law firm to represent him.

Meanwhile, the initial appearance/arraignment hearing of Atalig's girlfriend and co-defendant, Evelyn Atalig, will be today, Monday, at 11am.

The hearing was supposed to be held last Thursday, but Evelyn Atalig, through counsel Steven P. Pixley, and as

DUA

From Page 1

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, the department requested a budget of \$11 million from the U.S. Department of Labor for the DUA program in order to assist up to 3,000 individuals.

Department of Labor director of employment Eugene Tebuteb added that that amount is not concrete and could still change, depending on the number of individuals who need assistance.

"[\$11 million] is not concrete and could be modified to accommodate the number of applicants," he said.

Speaking at the Society of Human Resources Management meeting last Thursday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom, Benavente and members of the Department of Labor provided information about the DUA program in order for the information to be disseminated to affected employees.

Benavente said that eligible DUA individuals will be given either \$336 or \$335, depending on which disaster aid they are applying for, either Super Typhoon Yutu or Typhoon Mangkhut.

As of last Thursday, a total of 1,800 applications were

submitted to the department.

"We have 1,800 applications and I'm estimating out of 3,000, and only 1,800 came in, we're still expecting 1,200. We could have more because we don't know if all the 1,800 will be eligible. We can at least accept 1,200 more applicants," Benavente said.

The department is encouraging everyone affected to apply.

"We're encouraging everyone to apply. Let's review your application. We have a limited budget...\$11 million was our requested budget...but just keep it [applications] coming..." said Benavente.

The department has already asked for a deadline extension on the submission of applications, to move it to Jan. 16, 2019, instead of Dec. 16, 2018.

Tebuteb said the DUA program is intended to aid workers whose jobs were affected by Super Typhoon Yutu or Typhoon Mangkhut.

"It has to be related to the typhoon. When the typhoon hit and an employee was affected, meaning they were laid off or their regular working hours were reduced, then they qualify. It's also for sole proprietorships, like if you're self-employed and it's your primary source of income. It's also for like fishermen and farmers," he said.

More Guam Guard members return home

More than 70 members of the Guam National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves returned home Saturday after helping the people of Saipan recover from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Over the past six weeks, Guard members and U.S. Army reservists were on Saipan to help with clearing and transporting more than 10,000 cubic yards of debris, assessing thousands of homes and repairing more than 300 roofs with temporary fixtures to allow residents to return to safe, livable conditions.

Recovery efforts on Saipan will continue as Federal Emergency Management Agency contractors seamlessly take over what the military started.

The remaining Guard members will return this week. (PR)



Maj. Gen. Roderick R. Leon Guerrero, center, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, and his spouse, Mary Leon Guerrero, pose for a photo with airmen and soldiers from the Guam National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves upon arrival on Saturday, Dec. 8, on the flight line at Andersen Air Force Base, Yigo, Guam. They were part of hundreds of service members who assisted with recovery efforts following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu in October.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 12, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training in the island of Farallon de Medinilla, Warning Area 12, and Warning Area 517 on Dec. 10, 12, and 13, from 10am to 3pm.

Training will also be conducted at W-517 on Dec. 14-

in international waters.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. The Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Banks are open for public use.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. (PR)

Guam Chamoru commission meeting set

The Kumisiñon i Fino' Chamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Tao-tao Tåno' (Commission on Chamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its December monthly meeting on Dec. 13, Thursday, from 12:30pm to 3pm. The meeting will take place at the

Garden House (former Guam Museum) in the Plaza de Espana, Hagåtña. For more information, contact Kumisiñon chair/Gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritaria Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. (PR)

MVA meeting on Dec. 14

The Marianas Visitors Authority's semi-annual general membership meeting will be on Dec. 14, at 10am at Fiesta

Resort & Spa Saipan. Guest speakers from the MVA's offshore offices will provide a recap of fiscal year 2018 projects and the MVA's marketing plans for fiscal year 2019, including post-typhoon recovery plans. Admission is \$20 for MVA members and \$25 for non-members. RSVP by emailing MVA Community Projects Division at commtyprojects@mymarianas.com or calling 664-3210. (PR)

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Power restoration on Tinian begins in earnest

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Power restoration on Tinian began in earnest last Thursday with Feeder 3, which serves about 70 percent of the Com-

monwealth Utilities Corp.'s customers on the island, according to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho.

In his latest update last Thursday, Camacho said that work with Feeder 3 started at

the power plant and is moving toward the port. Once the port is energized, work will move into the village to restore power to a large number of residential customers, Camacho said.

CUC aims to complete restoration of Feeder 3 on Dec. 24.

Camacho said power has

been restored to approximately 20 percent of Tinian, with Feeder 2 approximately 80 percent restored, bringing power to several critical facilities/customers.

Feeders 1, 3, and 4 remain offline.

Camacho said Feeder 1 is to be abandoned as it doesn't

serve any customers.

With respect to Tinian's water, Camacho said that water production is steady at 100 percent.

On Saipan, CUC announced that, as of Monday, Saipan has 63 percent power and 82 percent water.

Pertaining to power, CUC disclosed last Wednesday that all nine feeders on Saipan are now partially online. CUC

did not indicate the percentage as to power restored on the island last week.

Last Thursday, Camacho said, the water production reached 84 percent of total water production, with 111 out of the 138 water wells operating.

He said 70 water wells are online with CUC power and 41 water wells are online with Federal Emergency Management Agency generators.

"The last three to four days were quite slow."

DNAP numbers D07401 through D15901 and above were all served from last Sunday, Dec. 2, until Dec. 7, Friday, while Dec. 8, 2018, Saturday was reserved for first responders, disaster relief workers, disaster recovery workers, and DNAP workers themselves.

"A lot more people took numbers than showed up," Hunter predicted, adding that he has yet to see the final numbers. He further told *Saipan Tribune* that he has yet to meet with NAP administrator Walter Macaranas yesterday afternoon.

DNAP numbers were being processed since Nov. 25, 2018 and concluded processing last Dec. 8, 2018. Those who still have numbers but did not show up for the interview would not be given a second chance.

DCCA: No more DNAP

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs officially ended its Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program last Saturday.

DCCA, the department that administers the Nutritional Assistance Program, which in turn handles DNAP, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they believe they were able to distribute DNAP to all who were provided a number over



Disaster Nutritional Assistance Program lines last Saturday were not as long as the first day, where people even camped out of the NAP office in As Lito for processing.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Human Resources Manager vacant position **CUC JVA No. 19-008 is officially closing Effective 12/12/2018**

Please submit employment application at room 17, 3rd floor
Joeten Dandan Bldg.

Thank you.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-001**

Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes replacement of various building elements which were damaged due to the Typhoon Souledor and also additional work required to strengthen the facility for improving its integrity with a view of withstanding elements of nature. CUC has performed partial work under an ongoing contract with another contractor.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **150 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

Potential Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$150.00 for one RFP package set.

A pre-proposal Conference will be scheduled on **December 18, 2018 at 10:00 am (ChST)**, at the power plant conference room, followed by a site visit. All attendees are required to arrive with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). **The attendance in the conference and site visit is mandatory to ensure that the parties are fully familiar with the existing site conditions.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-19-001 - Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, CNMI***", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional Proposals will not be considered. Proposals shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposers are required to complete all Proposal Forms. Proposers may supplement the form as appropriate. Proposers will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Proposal price must accompany the Proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or Proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total Proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposers. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Discussions may be conducted with responsive offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 19, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Assistant via christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and waive any imperfection in the Proposal in the best interest of the government. All Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-002**

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for CUC Administration and Operation, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section (Saipan, Tinian or Rota), by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$20.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-002, Lease of Office Space for CUC Rota Administration & Operation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 7, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Senior Purchasing Assistant via christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



OAG moves to drop rape case vs 2

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney

General has moved to drop the case against two men accused of raping a 52-year-old woman on Saipan.

Assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio informed the Superior Court last week that the victim in the case against

Jaimie Always and Youwan Weiner Sony has asked for counseling and treatment and, since the duration of the treatment remains unknown and because the time limitation to begin a prosecution has not expired, the "Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss the instant matter without prejudice."

That means the government may re-file the case against the 47-year-old Always and 29-year-old Sony in the future.

Last March, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N.

Camacho dismissed without prejudice the charges against Always after finding during a preliminary hearing that no probable cause to believe that the crimes of sexual assault in the first degree were committed.

The OAG then re-filed the charges against Always.

Last September, the Office of the Public Defender, counsel for Always, asserted that the purported basis for Always' liability is that he allegedly told the woman to "listen and obey" when someone else's supposed crime against her was already in progress.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona said there

is no allegation that Always was in a position of authority over the woman, and both were adults at the time of the alleged conduct.

According to police, officers responded to a house last Feb. 4 to investigate a reported sexual assault incident. The officers met with the woman, who alleged that Always and Sony raped her.

Always and Sony were found by the officers still sleeping inside the house where the rape allegedly happened.

Always and Sony claimed to have had consensual sex with the woman.

Sheltering transitions to Kagman facility



Volunteers help shellees move to the Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility last week.
ERWIN ENCINARES

pecting to see more shellees returning to their homes within the coming days as they avail of the Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support program. (PR)

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Jaime Always and Youwan Weiner Sony has asked for counseling and treatment and, since the duration of the treatment remains unknown and because the time limitation to begin a prosecution has not expired, the "Commonwealth believes it is in the interest of justice to dismiss the instant matter without prejudice."

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Always and Sony were found by the officers still sleeping inside the house where the rape allegedly happened.

Always and Sony claimed to have had consensual sex with the woman.

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

Dr. Dennis Williams, a renowned eye surgeon, continues the tradition of excellence at Marianas Eye Institute.

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- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

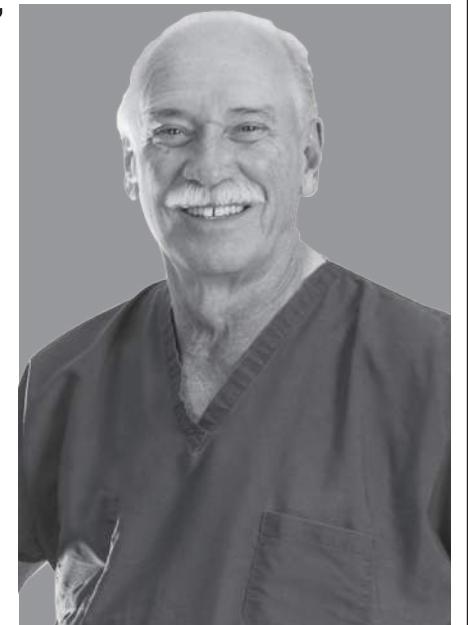
Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
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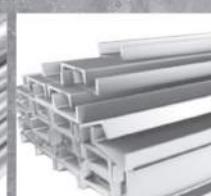
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Lost a job to Yutu or Mangkhut? Here's how to get help

The CNMI Department of Labor is accepting applications for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, or DUA, for CNMI workers in the immediate aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu or Typhoon Mangkhut.

What is DUA?

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act authorizes the DUA program to provide payment and re-employment assistance to individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster. The disaster assistance period for Super Typhoon Yutu is Oct. 28, 2018, to April 27, 2019. For Typhoon Mangkhut, DAP is from Sept. 16, 2018, to March 30, 2019.

Who can apply?

Individuals who worked in the major disaster area at the time of the disaster and are totally, part-totally, or partially unemployed as a direct result of the disaster may apply for DUA.

The following conditions may apply:

- The individual is unable to reach his/her place of employment due to the disaster;
- The individual was scheduled to start work and the job no longer exists or the individual is unable to reach the job;
- The individual became the breadwinner or major support because the head of the household died as a direct result of the disaster; or
- The individual cannot work because of an injury caused as a direct result of the major disaster.
- The individual's work hours have been reduced as a direct result of the major disaster.
- Individuals who wish to receive DUA benefits must provide proof of identity and demonstrate their status as U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or qualified aliens.

Qualified aliens include:

- Legal permanent resident ("green card" holder)
- An asylee, refugee, or an alien whose deportation is being withheld
- Alien paroled into the U.S. for at least one year
- Alien granted conditional entry (per law in effect prior to April 1, 1980)
- Cuban/Haitian entrant
- Aliens in the U.S. who have been abused, subject to battery or extreme cruelty by a spouse or other family/household member, or have been a victim of a severe form of human trafficking
- Aliens whose children have been abused and alien children whose parent has

been abused who fit certain criteria

Application deadline

Individuals may apply for DUA if they have had a week(s) of unemployment after Oct. 24, 2018, which is the date the disaster began.

DUA is available for individuals who have lost their jobs, had their regular work hours reduced, or were self-employed individuals but are no longer able to work as a direct result of Super Typhoon Yutu. Individuals must file applications for DUA by Dec. 16, 2018.

For Typhoon Mangkhut

DUA, individuals may apply if they have had a week(s) of unemployment after Sept. 10, 2018, which is the date the disaster began. The deadline to apply for this aid is also Dec. 16, 2018.

How and where to apply?

Claimants may apply for DUA either in person, by mail, or by phone. DUA applications and other forms may be obtained at either of the following location(s):

- SAIPAN: Springs Plaza, 1st Floor Unit 5
- ROTA: Mayor's Office

TINIAN: Edu's Plaza, 1st Floor

Individuals applying by phone should have their social security number available when calling, along with the name and address of their last employer or prospective employer of record or basic information regarding their business, if self-employed. Phone applications can be made by

calling any of the following numbers Monday through Friday between 9am and 3pm.

- SAIPAN: 788-4180; 788-4183; 788-4768; 788-4769
- TINIAN: 287-0411; 783-2005
- ROTA: 32-9479

DUA is available for eligible unemployed employees, self-employed individuals, farmers and fishermen en-

gaged in business at the time of the disaster.

Individuals who lie to obtain DUA to which they are not entitled will be required to repay all benefits and may be subject to prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

Visit CNMI DOL's website at www.marianaslabor.net for more DUA-related information. (PR)

Resemblance of peak season expected by January

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Island hopes the CNMI will see at least a resemblance of its regular peak season by January.

In an interview with HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh at the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter office last week, Cavanagh this is the hope of most HANMI hotels.

"There is some hope as far as recovering some in December and, hopefully, by January. ... We won't be back to normal but we will have some resemblance of what a busy season would be," she said.

Cavanagh cited that Saipan was able to welcome tourists again since Nov. 20, when

the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport opened its terminals to international flights.

"That was a really good decision not only for the hotels but for the economy as a whole. ... It's a wonderful thing. You go basically past Oleai and into the Garapan core and you'll see a bunch of tourists walking around and enjoying themselves..." she said

Currently, there are still three HANMI member-hotels that remain closed: the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and the Saipan World Resort.

Cavanagh said that PIC and World Resort are expected to resume operations soon but COP remains uncertain.

"As far as the southern part

of our island [is concerned], when it comes to two of our properties, PIC and COP, we suffered the most damage. ... In a couple of weeks [PIC] will be opening. We actually have our first guests scheduled to come in on the 20th and we're going to be fully operational," she said. Cavanagh is also the general manager of PIC Saipan

Saipan Tribune archives quotes Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as saying that accommodation of tourists is dependent on the availability of rooms.

When asked about the current number of tourists on island following Super Typhoon Yutu, Cavanagh said that she does not have the numbers yet and will have them after the Marianas Visitors Authority board meeting last week.

MVA joins Taiwan travel fair

23-26, 2018.

Taipei ITF is one of the biggest annual travel fair in the Asia-Pacific region and the biggest trade show combined exhibition and sales event in Taiwan.

"Since the opening of our

Taiwan office several years ago, we have regularly participated in Taipei ITF to increase awareness of the Marianas and grow demand in Taiwan for our destination," said MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, who led the MVA delegation at the fair. "All that effort is paying off, as we are now anticipating the finalization of our agreement with China Airlines to begin direct charter flights from Taiwan next year. This year's ITF was an opportunity to share that good news with potential visitors."

The fair was held for the first time at Nangang Exhibition Hall. Part of the American Pavilion, MVA's booth used the underwater photography of Marianas Ocean Tourism Ambassador Yorko Summer, who also attended the event to help promote the islands to the public, and Taiwan's growing number of dive enthusiasts. Intern to the Marianas Min-

Chen also attended.

At its booth, the MVA staff distributed brochures, answered questions, and shared information about Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The MVA also met with charter airline representatives and travel agents to discuss details of the upcoming charter flights. (MVA)



Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, fourth from left, and the MVA delegation meet with officials of Palau Visitors Authority and Pacific International Travel GM Alex Lei, fourth from right, at the Taipei International Travel Fair on Nov. 24, 2018, in Taiwan.



The Marianas Visitors Authority promotes Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at the Taipei International Travel Fair on Nov. 23-26, 2018, in Taiwan. From left are MVA intern Min Chen, MVA marketing specialist Hillary Agulito, Marianas Ocean Tourism Ambassador Yorko Summer, MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, MVA Taiwan in-country manager Milane Tsai, MVA Community Projects coordinator Demalynn Pagarao, and MVA Taiwan PR manager Steven Cheng.

Response to vessel fire in A. Samoa continues

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—The U.S. Coast Guard in American Samoa is continuing to investigate the loss of the commercial fishing vessel *Jeanette* last Friday.

"The vessel poses minimal risk to residents and the environment," said Lt. Al Blaisdell, supervisor, Marine Safety Detachment American Samoa. "Due to the depth of water, we understand there will be no salvage attempted. Any fuel remaining aboard, if released, will dissipate quickly. We are continuing with our investigation into the cause of the fire and the sinking."

Personnel from the MSD began interviews with the crew Thursday. Additional

members from Coast Guard Sector Honolulu arrived Thursday to assist. The team will also interview the firefighters, tugboat crew and others to determine the cause of the fire, sinking, and timeline of events.

The 228-foot tuna purse seiner caught fire at the commercial cargo pier in Pago Pago Wednesday. Smoke and fire were visible in the main cabin, and local firefighters battled the blaze which consumed nets, interior materials, and even the vessel's embarked helicopter.

"As the fire continued to burn for several hours concerns were raised over the degrading structural integrity of

the vessel under the intense heat, and the weight of the water applied to the fire, coupled with the possible impact of the smoke on those nearby and the potential effects of the ship sinking at the pier. The joint decision, spearheaded by the Port Authority, was made to tow the vessel offshore and the port provided a tug to do so. The tug remained with the *Jeanette* offshore," said Blaisdell.

The vessel was under tow by a Port Authority tug and still on fire when it began to list and sank Thursday at 10:39am about 17 nautical miles (19.5 statute miles) southwest of the main island in approximately 3,700 meters (12,140 feet) of water. The tug crew remained on scene to look for pollution and debris. Some small items

from the deck drifted free. A small amount of fuel, likely on deck, surfaced and immediately dissipated.

The vessel has a potential fuel load of 90,000 gallons of diesel, 300 gallons of gasoline, as much as 12,000 lbs of ammonia, and 13 metric tons of fish aboard. As the ship recently returned from fishing, it is unlikely the full fuel load was aboard. There are 22 crew members associated with the boat, but no one was aboard at the time of the fire, and no injuries reported.

Following consultation with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's scientific support team, shoreline impacts based on the available data are unlikely. Any diesel released may form a sheen that will dis-

sipate and be moved to the west by currents and winds. In high winds, a sheen may not be visible at all. Responders are conducting shoreline assessments along the southern coast of Tutuila Island and a possible overflight of the location of the sinking by civilian helicopter.

"It's unknown how much if any fuel remains aboard the *Jeanette*," said Blaisdell. "If there is any sheening we anticipate it is unrecoverable and will break up quickly and evaporate. The vessel is not a threat to navigation or fishing grounds. Our focus now is understanding how this happened and work to prevent future occurrences. This incident is a major marine casualty, and we are conducting our investigation jointly

with the National Transportation Safety Board."

Through the investigation process, the Coast Guard and [National Transportation Safety Board] will gather information about the accident including interviews, vessel history, event timeline and much more to detain the cause of the fire and sinking. The Coast Guard's primary goal is to prevent future incidents and protect the safety of mariners and the ports. The full investigation, to include the collection of data, analysis, summary report and approval of that report by Coast Guard headquarters is expected to take several months at a minimum. The results will be available once reviewed and approved. (USCG)

High risk for rip currents

Hazardous trade-wind generated seas and swells will continue to produce large surf on north and east facing reefs.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, there is a high risk of rip currents through Wednesday afternoon.

If you become caught in a rip current, yell for help. Remain calm. Do not exhaust

yourself and stay afloat while waiting for help. If you have to swim out of a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly.

The public is being advised to avoid venturing near reefs and beaches, especially those facing north and east. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. (PR)

Drinking water updates

SAIPAN

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. now report that water supply has been stabilized on Saipan.

This comes soon after CUC customers of the Saipan public water system were notified on Oct. 27, that due to Super Typhoon Yutu, the water system had been disrupted and the risk of contamination by coliform bacteria was uncertain.

CUC had strongly recommended that customers boil the CUC Saipan water before drinking.

Based on the latest information from CUC, between Nov. 7, 2018 and Nov. 20, 2018, CUC personnel tested 90 samples for coliform and E. coli bacteria from all areas of the Saipan water system. All samples contained adequate levels of disinfection and none of the samples contained coliform bacteria.

With the Tinian water system providing daily water service to the entire island, it is no longer necessary to boil the water before drinking.

CUC urged the public to share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You may do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For any further information and/or comments, contact the CUC Water Division at (670) 322-5030/1. (*Saipan Tribune*)

about the water system being disrupted by Yutu. A similar recommendation to boil CUC Tinian water before drinking was also issued.

Between Nov. 6 and Nov. 28, CUC personnel tested 11 samples for coliform and E.coli bacteria from all areas of the Tinian water system. All samples contained adequate levels of disinfection. One sample collected on Nov. 6, 2018, did contain total coliform, however a second sample collected on Nov. 9, 2018, from the same site was free of coliform bacteria. All of the other 10 samples were free of bacteria.

With the Tinian water system providing daily water service to the entire island, it is no longer necessary to boil the water before drinking.

CUC urged the public to share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You may do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

With the Saipan water system providing daily water service to most of the island, it is no longer necessary to boil the water before drinking. The notice was distributed on Dec. 6.

TINIAN

CUC also reported that the water supply on Timian has been stabilized.

CUC's Tinian customers were notified on Oct. 27



Soldiers welcome students to school on Saipan after helping with recovery

Students are greeted by airmen assigned to the 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers at Kagman High School during the first day at school on Saipan last Dec. 3, 2018.

TECH. SGT. CHRISTOPHER RUANO



Airmen, from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th RED HORSE Squadron, welcome students back to school earlier this week. The airmen deployed last month to assist with recovery efforts in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu, which devastated Saipan in October.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

Soldiers and airmen from the Guam National Guard, who have been on Saipan since last month to help with recovery efforts following the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu, which devastated the island in late October, helped to welcome students as they returned back to school earlier this week. (PR)

Soldiers and airmen from the Guam National Guard help welcome students as they return to school.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Trade war bluster over China is rattling the world

The sharp rise of the Dow Jones Industrial Average since Donald Trump's election as president in November 2016 is something he and his supporters often cite to show how he has helped the economy—and how, despite his divisive style, Trump's tax cuts and regulation reductions have been good for America. But the president's bluster about trade wars—"I am a Tariff Man"—and the important U.S.-China relationship has so far fueled only chaos. Consider this week. The Dow dropped 799 points Tuesday then had a wilder day on Thursday, closing down 79 points after falling as much as 784 points.

There's been global fallout since Saturday, when Trump asserted that Chinese President Xi Jinping had caved in his trade war with the U.S. Trump said he'd cut an "incredible" deal in which China would drop a 40 percent import duty on American cars in return for the U.S. dropping a planned increase in tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese exports.

Initially, markets around the planet were thrilled by the news—a trade war between Earth's two biggest economies creates headaches for nearly everyone. But as it became clear that Xi had only agreed to a 90-day truce on trade issues—not remotely what Trump claimed—investors panicked. The Dow has fallen by 2,000 points from its 2018 high, wiping out nearly all of its gains for the year. Adding to investors' worries: the news that Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of the giant Chinese tech firm Huawei, had been arrested by Canadian authorities at the U.S. Justice Department's behest, reportedly because of Huawei's breaking sanctions by doing business with Iran.

Given that she is the daughter of Huawei's founder, Ren Zhengfei, who is revered in China for creating a tech behemoth that is a legitimate rival to U.S. firms, Beijing's sharp reaction to her arrest was no surprise. But the arrest only underscored the valid reasons that Washington has for being upset with China's trade practices. China tramples on laws and agreements it doesn't like, not just by trading with international sponsors of terrorism and subsidizing exports but by aggressively stealing intellectual property and business secrets from U.S. tech firms. Trump has a case when he says his predecessors let Beijing get away with awful behavior.

But it's his problem now. He has stated that "trade wars are great and easy to win." It's easy to declare nonexistent wins. It's far more difficult to stabilize the strategically vital relationship between Washington and Beijing with the care and thoughtfulness it demands—and the world needs.

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What's an education for, anyway?

My family, filled with smart, shrewd and funny people, would shrug their collective shoulders and ask, "What good is college?" Only my mom, who died when I was young, valued education. I knew that because her single ambition for me growing up was that I might marry a man with a degree.

I applied to college only because my high school history teacher told me the place he'd attended on a football scholarship just started accepting female students. He thought maybe I had a shot.

When I told my relatives that I was heading to New Hampshire in 1975, they assumed I was pregnant. Why else would an 18-year-old girl leave the state? "It happened to your cousin," one aunt whispered as I boarded the bus for White River Junction. "You can always come home."

They were skeptical about what I'd learn in some cold building far away that I couldn't learn in Brooklyn. What was an education going to get me—except into trouble?

I had no idea what I wanted to do or wanted to be, but I wanted a degree of my own. Revising my mother's wishes, I didn't just want to stand next to someone who was knowledgeable. I wanted to be knowledgeable.

Also, an education can't divorce you.

Besides, receiving an education is different from getting a degree. A degree is like a wedding ring: It's meaningless if it's there just for show. Like a thin piece of gold, a printed piece of paper—even in a fancy font—is worthless unless it represents substantial personal commitment.

An education is about learning things you don't know. Just as we need to try foods we've never eaten before, we need to approach unfamiliar subjects. Life's menu can be innovative, varied and delightful, but without outside influences, it can too often be limited, boring and unappetizing.

I have a friend who pretty much eats only those things she was served in childhood: meat, potatoes, beans and applesauce. She's not excessively fun when it comes to dining out.

Curiosity, like originality and delight, has to be nurtured. But if we keep emphasizing the notion of familiarity and security at the expense of new and potentially challenging experience, then we'll be stuck with the intellectual equivalent of a 1968 Swanson's T.V. Dinner.

Authentic education demands that students learn, and not merely that they are taught. It's not about simply offering access to information or data. What happens in classrooms is not

By GINA BARRECA

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.



the same as what happens at UPS: it is not like transferring an unexamined parcel of information from one person to another. It must include, as all reputable teachers know, instructing students in academic discipline and personal responsibility.

This is one reason that students should be required to take classes from outside their area of specialization. Their futures are under construction. While they may have blueprints in place, perhaps handed down through their families or fantasies from glittering daydreams, there are many architectural models from which to choose. That way they won't end up with the academic equivalent of a five-story one-bedroom apartment with no kitchen and a bathroom on the roof.

Unable to predict the ineffable results of education, I worry we're defining it in merely quantifiable terms—judging institutions, subjects and majors by how much money their graduates earn once they're in the workplace. That's not an assessment of a demanding course of study. That's an assessment of who makes coin. If that's all anybody needs to know, I could have stayed in the old neighborhood. Gangsters, after all, make more money than anybody else.

An authentic liberal arts education has value of a different kind: It's a triumph over ignorance and a refusal to be intimidated by the unknown.

It's about taking a class in a cold building on a quiet morning and learning that words, as well as numbers, in the proper sequence, can unlock the universe. It's about proficiency, of course, but it's also about perspective.

It's not what you "get" out of college that changes your life; it's what you're given. You gain authority not only over subjects, but over yourself.

As my family predicted, education got me into trouble—but it was trouble for which I looked, not from which I ran. That's the payoff.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

HB 20-36 needs to be vetoed

Dear taxpayer: I write this to bring to your attention a special interest bill that recently passed the Senate, a bill that hasn't received any media coverage since its passage last Thursday. As a representative, it is my duty to inform you why House Bill 20-36 needs to be vetoed by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. Please allow me to explain.

H.B. 20-36, a bill which re-establishes the special annuity for governors and lieutenant governors, also amends 1 CMC § 8357, which originally required that a governor or lieutenant governor must serve *at least one full term in office* to receive the special annuity. If passed into law, H.B. 20-36 will now allow for an elected official (such as a Senate president who becomes the governor or lieutenant governor if either one is removed, resigns, or dies in office) to receive this special annuity for a lifetime, even if s/he only serves a portion or remaining term of office. The "remaining term" is subjective in its timeframe, as it could be a remaining term of one day or three years.

If H.B. 20-36 becomes law, it will cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars every year, and it will also continue to increase every time a governor or lieutenant governor leaves office, as s/he is entitled to the special annuity for a lifetime. Some elected officials may receive a huge payout once this bill becomes law because it is *retroactive*, as pointed out by Attorney General Edward Manibusan. In a letter to Rep. Ivan Blanco, chairman of the House Judicial and Government Operations Committee, Manibusan offered his opinion on H.B. 20-36, stating, "The proposed changes would apply retroactively to those who served in office during and after June 14, 2007. The committee should assess the fiscal impact of the proposed amendment and determine the source of revenue for the anticipated increase for funding the special annuities for governors and lieutenant governors." Sadly, the AG's advice has fallen on deaf ears, and no source of revenue has ever been identified to fund H.B. 20-36.

So how much will this special annuity cost taxpayers? Let's do the math for just one of the elected officials who stands to benefit from this bill. According to H.B. 20-36, a Senate president who

ascended into the lieutenant governor position back in 2007 can receive 11 years of retroactive pay. The annuity will give him 65 percent of the \$60,000 salary he received as lieutenant governor at that time, which would be approximately \$39,000 per year. This elected official could be paid at least \$429,000 (\$39,000 x 11 years of retroactive pay) and, on top of that, he will continue to receive \$39,000 for the rest of his life. Because of H.B. 20-36, he can receive a lifetime special annuity, and he never even had to serve one full term in public office as a lieutenant governor as currently required by law (without the amendment in place). As for the rest of us? We will be lucky if we can retire at 65 years of age, and luckier if we still have an existing retirement pension that hasn't been squandered away by special interest bills like H.B. 20-36 that enrich the few at the expense of the many.

Please realize that I projected the cost for just one of the elected officials who will amass a fortune from H.B. 20-36, but there are others who will also be enriched by this bill once it is signed into law. We also must acknowledge that the salaries for the positions of governor and lieutenant governor have increased significantly to annual salaries of \$120,000 and \$100,000, respectively. That means from this day forward, the special annuity for the governor's position will be \$78,000 every year for a lifetime, and the special annuity for the lieutenant governor will be \$65,000 for a lifetime, regardless of whether or not they served a full term in office.

For the record, I strongly opposed H.B. 20-36 when it was introduced in the House and I voted against it. I was vocal about the consequences of this bill that only benefitted certain elected officials, yet it still passed the House back in February of this year.

What is even more troubling than all the special interest implications of H.B. 20-36 is *how* it managed to pass the Senate last week. H.B. 20-36 was not even on the bill calendar or anywhere on Thursday's Senate agenda. But it was somehow brought in and pushed through. My question is, which senator(s) pushed to see this bill pass so expeditiously and brazenly, without it even appearing on the bill calendar or Senate agenda? If the passage of H.B.

By EDWIN K. PROPST
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Edwin F. Propst is a member of the House of Representatives of the 20th Legislature.

20-36 does not violate the Open Government Act, then it certainly violated the spirit and intent of the Open Government Act.

To make matters even worse, the Senate claims this bill mustered enough votes to pass the Senate, but I strongly disagree. H.B. 20-36 allegedly passed the Senate with 4 voting yes, 2 voting no, and 2 abstaining. The problem is, this goes against our Commonwealth Constitution's Article II, Section 7d, which states, "Any appropriation bill, or any bill affecting spending authority, government financial management, or organization of the government, enacted in the period between a regular general election and the second Monday of January of the following year shall be void unless enacted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members of each house of the Legislature." According to the Commonwealth Constitution, the Senate needed three-fourths of their members to pass this bill. Only four of the eight present voted in the affirmative, which means they did not receive the three-fourths as required by the Constitution. Therefore, if the Senate claims H.B. 20-36 passed the Senate, then they are opening themselves up to a lawsuit by the Office of the Attorney General, or a taxpayer lawsuit.

In an effort to avoid litigation and waste precious taxpayer dollars, I ask that you join me in urging Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to veto H.B. 20-36. It is the right thing to do as we face certain financial challenges from the destruction caused by Super Typhoon Yutu and future impending disasters caused by climate change. Let's put our people's needs before the wants of politicians. People first.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our condolences

This is meant to let the friends of Ann and Bill Stewart know that they have passed away. Ann passed away about a week ago and Bill passed away just a few days ago. The daughter Ann and Bill, Kathryn Stewart McDonald, contacted me via phone to inform me that her parents passed away only a week apart: Ann died on or about Nov. 25 and Bill died on or about Dec. 5.

Ann and Bill Stewart came to Saipan at the time U.S. Trust Territory governed the Micronesian Islands. Bill Stewart was the deputy director of Resources and Development. He was responsible for the economic development of the six districts under TTPI. Bill Stewart was the industrial economist and spent several years touring the other five districts help them identify their economic potential.

I had the pleasure of working with Bill Stewart in the establishment of the 200-room Saipan Beach Inter-Continental Inn. He was also involved in his advisory capacity in assisting other development here in the Northern Mariana Islands.

In 1990 I was appointed by the then-governor Lorenzo I. Guerrero to head the Budget and Planning Division of his administration. I, of course, asked Bill Stewart to help the staff develop a 10-year plan to be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Mr. Steve LeMieu also joined the team.

I know there are many in Micronesia who know Bill and Ann Stewart. I am sure I speak for many that we will immensely miss Bill and Ann. Our deepest sorrow and sympathy to Kathryn for the loss of her parents and we stand ready to help in any way we can to lighten the heavy feeling.

Rita and Dave M. Sablan
Papago, Saipan

Amata's statement on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata (R-A Samoa) released the following Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day statement last Friday in honor of all who served:

"This day in 1941 changed the course of our nation's history. The naval base at Pearl Harbor and the airfields on Oahu were suddenly attacked by Japanese forces, bringing the United States into World War II. Each year on Dec. 7, we pause to remember those who sacrificed all, those who responded with great bravery in the chaos, and the eventual worldwide advancement of the cause of freedom and peace that resulted from the Allied victory."

Torres' statement on Constitution Day

Editor's Note: The CNMI marked Constitution Day last Friday, Dec. 7, 2018. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued the following statement to mark the occasion.

Today, as we continue to rebuild and recover from the devastation of a month ago, we pause to reflect on a very special time in our history. Where we as a people established rules and guidelines to govern us as a people moving forward. As we trod on to full recovery, we are reminded of the day where our forefathers put pen to paper and affirmed the Constitution we as officials swore to uphold and defend.

We commemorate the countless hours of work they put in to make each article and amendment a reality, and the achieve-

"Anyone who has walked the heritage trail on Tutuila can see evidence of American Samoa's World War II history that included batteries on Blunt's Point and Breaker's Point. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, American Samoa's defenses were increased, and our island hosted a much larger presence of Marines and naval forces.

"Tali P.T. Coleman is part of American Samoa's tradition of service. During the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was stationed on Oahu at Schofield Barracks. His jeep was strafed as he was headed for his place of duty, and he is listed as a survivor of the attack. He went on to serve throughout the war in the Pacific, including Guadalcanal, retiring as captain, and becoming our first elected governor. He represents our islands as the only American Samoan inducted into the Army Infantry Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia.

"In all the wars and conflicts since World War II, many of our people have served and distinguished themselves. All these years later, our people still enlist and serve proudly in great numbers, with the highest Army enlistment rate per capita in the nation. God bless our veterans and their families."

ments made possible through their dedication in providing us a blueprint to self-governance.

As we, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, sail toward new horizons and full recovery, we must not forget to always hold dear our Constitution, the symbolic "embodiment of our traditions and hopes." Through it we have become a wiser and stronger people, ready to take on the challenges put before us. And just as we continue to pick up the pieces and continue on with living our lives, we can be assured that through the rights given to us by our Constitution, we will continue to fulfill the dreams made by its framers for continued improvement and success.

From our families to yours, may all of you have a safe and restful Constitution Day weekend.

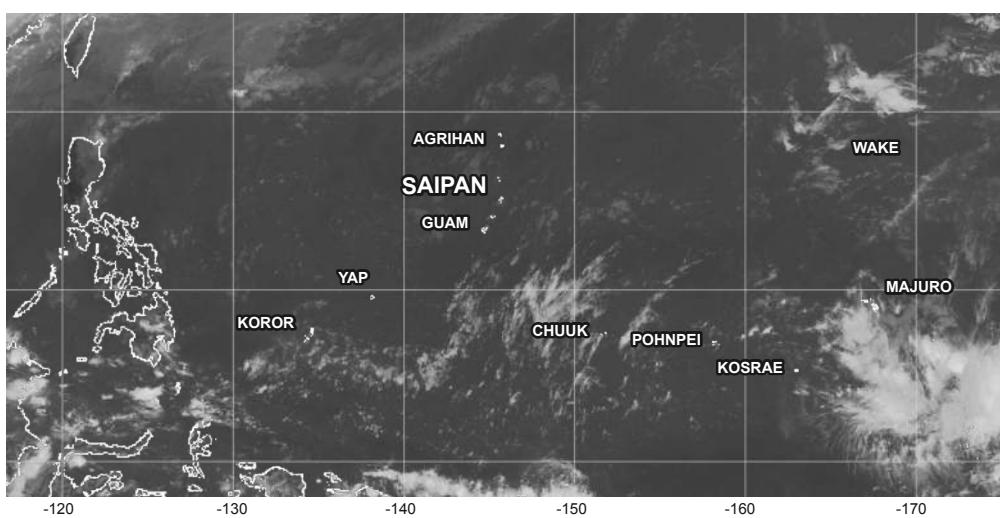
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88°	▼ 76°	▲ 88°	▼ 76°	▲ 89°	▼ 78°	▲ 89°	▼ 78°	▲ 89°	▼ 78°
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YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:42 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

At 700mb, an inverted trough riding from east to west direction combined with an upper-level trough east of the Marianas will bring increasing clouds and substantial showers, and possible thunderstorms between tonight and Monday night. Unfortunately, precip models lack firm support on elevating the shower coverage for the area over the next 12 to 36 hours. For this reason, we have kept the short-term forecast the same. Satellite shows a disorganized layer of showery clouds up to 300 miles east of Guam, which corresponds to a weak surface trough embedded within the trade-wind flow. The combined weather features at mid to upper-level and trade-wind flow can create the potential for scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms but we'll continue to monitor this situation and provide updates should models incline to increase the shower coverage over the region. Thus, moderate to fresh trades and isolated showers will persist through the next several days.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲	▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲	▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	72° / 61°
Beijing	Sunny	34° / 10°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Honolulu	Windy	80° / 72°
London	Rain	45° / 36°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	68° / 49°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	74° / 58°
New York	Partly Cloudy	40° / 30°
Osaka	Rain	52° / 48°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	46° / 36°
Busan	Rain	50° / 34°
Rome	Sunny	57° / 37°
Salem	Cloudy	44° / 36°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 47°
Seoul	Mixed	39° / 21°
Tokyo	Rain	45° / 43°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	39° / 30°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
3:26 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.32
10:31 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
4:08 PM	LOW TIDE	1.22
8:32 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Tuesday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:43 AM	8:16 PM	-
Tuesday	9:30 AM	9:06 PM	-
Wednesday	10:15 AM	9:56 PM	-
Thursday	10:57 AM	10:44 PM	-
Friday	11:37 AM	11:32 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:15am 9:55am Daily				UA174 7:30am 8:11am Daily			
UA105 4:45pm 5:25pm 2, 4				UA104 3:00pm 3:41pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – temporarily suspended				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – temporarily suspended			
7C3451 3:15am 6:30am Daily				7C3452 9:35pm 2:00am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			
				7C3452 10:05pm 2:00am+1 1			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3401 4:30pm 8:25pm Daily resume from Nov 27				7C3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily resume from Nov 27			
<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>				<i>Temporarily suspended:</i>			
TW9308 1:10am 4:10am 3, 4				TW9307 6:30pm 12:10am+1 2, 3			
TW308 1:35am 5:20am Daily				TW307 7:00pm 12:35am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				TW307 7:05pm 12:35am+1 1			
OZ626 2:50am 6:40am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				OZ625 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7			
TW9308 3:20am 6:30am 2				OZ625 8:20pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
TW9308 3:25am 6:30am 5				TW9307 9:00pm 2:20am+1 1			
7C3403 4:35am 8:25am Daily				TW9307 9:05pm 2:25am+1 4			
				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) – resume from Nov 28				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 28			
3U8648 6:10am 8:50am 1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647 10:20pm 4:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU							

Business

AP

Demonstrators walk through tear gas during clashes Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018 in Paris.

Rioting engulfs Paris as anger grows over high French taxes



PARIS (AP)—The rumble of armored police trucks and the hiss of tear gas filled central Paris on Saturday, as French riot police fought to contain thousands of yellow-vested protesters venting their anger against the government in a movement that has grown more violent by the week.

A ring of steel surrounded the president's Elysee Palace — a key destination for the protesters — as police stationed trucks and reinforced metal barriers throughout the neighborhood.

Stores along the elegant Champs-Elysees Avenue and the posh Avenue Montaigne

boarded up their windows as if bracing for a hurricane but the storm struck anyway Saturday, this time at the height of the holiday shopping season. Protesters ripped off the plywood protecting the windows and threw flares and other projectiles. French riot police repeatedly repelled them with tear gas and water cannon.

Saturday's yellow vest crowd was overwhelmingly male, a mix of those bringing their financial grievances to Paris — the center of France's government, economy and culture — along with groups of experienced vandals who

tore steadily through some of the city's wealthiest neighborhoods, smashing and burning.

Police and protesters also clashed in other French cities, notably Marseille, Toulouse and Bordeaux, and in neighboring Belgium. Some protesters took aim at the French border with Italy, creating a huge traffic backup near the town of Ventimiglia.

The French government's plan was to prevent a repeat of the Dec. 2 rioting that damaged the Arc de Triomphe, devastated central Paris and tarnished the country's global image. It did not succeed, even

though it was better prepared.

Although Saturday's protest in the French capital started out quietly, tear gas choked the Champs-Elysees Avenue by early evening.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said that 135 people had been injured and 974 taken into custody amid protests around the nation. Paris police headquarters counted 71 injuries in the capital, seven of them police officers.

An estimated 125,000 people demonstrated around France while 10,000 took their anger to the streets of Paris, double the number in the capital last week, the interior minister said. Toughening security

tactics, French authorities deployed 8,000 security officers in the capital alone, among the 89,000 who fanned out around the country.

A Starbucks near the Champs-Elysees was smashed wide open and people were seen stepping over broken glass and serving themselves to beverages. The window of a nearby bank was smashed in with a wrought-iron decoration used to encircle city tree trunks.

All of the city's top tourist attractions — including the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre museum — shut down for the day, fearing the kind of damage that hit the Arc de Triomphe a week ago. Christmas markets and

soccer matches were cancelled. Subway stations in the city center closed and the U.S. embassy warned citizens to avoid all protest areas.

Yet in a sign of the financial disconnect that infuriates many of the protesters, a few blocks from the famed boulevard, people were sitting in Paris cafes, drinking cocktails and chatting.

Amid the melee, President Emmanuel Macron remained invisible and silent, as he has for the four weeks of a movement that started as a protest against a gas tax hike and metamorphosed into a rebellion against high taxes and eroding living standards.

Is there a Brexit 'Plan B?' UK minister offers alternatives

LONDON (AP)—Britain could consider a "Norway-plus" deal with the European Union if British Prime Minister Theresa May fails to win lawmakers' approval next week for her unpopular Brexit deal, a senior minister said Saturday.

Work and Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd was the first minister to publicly discuss a "Plan B" should May's Brexit divorce deal with the EU be defeated in a parliamentary vote on Tuesday.

Rudd, who backs May's Brexit deal, said "anything could happen" — including a second referendum on whether Britain should leave the bloc. She warned of a cha-

otic period for the country if the government is defeated in Parliament on Brexit.

She told the Times on Saturday that none of the possible alternatives is better than the current Brexit deal. But she acknowledged that if the deal doesn't pass, she would prefer a model similar to that of Norway, which is not an EU member but is part of the European Economic Area.

That would mean Britain stays part of the EU's vast single market, with goods, services and people continuing to move within the bloc in the same way as before, limiting potential disruptions to the British economy.

Such an alternative "seems plausible, not just in terms of the country but in terms of where the MPs (lawmakers) are," she added, although "nobody knows if it can be done."

The divorce agreement that May struck with the EU is widely opposed by British lawmakers across the political spectrum, and her Conservative government must convince skeptical lawmakers the deal is a good one ahead of Tuesday's vote.

A heavy defeat would sink the agreement, leaving the U.K. facing a messy "no-deal" Brexit when it leaves the bloc on March 29, and could topple May and her government.

China: Canada's detention of Huawei exec 'vile in nature'

BEIJING (AP)—China summoned the Canadian ambassador to protest the detention of a top executive of leading Chinese tech giant Huawei,

U.S. trade curbs on Iran.

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for phone and internet companies and has been the target of deepening U.S. security concerns over its ties to the Chinese government. The U.S. has pressured European countries and other allies to limit use of its technology, warning they could be opening themselves up to surveillance and theft of information.

Le told McCallum that Meng's detention at the request of the United States while transferring flights in Vancouver was a "severe

"violation" of her "legitimate rights and interests."

"Such a move ignores the law and is unreasonable, unconscionable, and vile in nature," Le said in the statement.

"China strongly urges the Canadian side to immediately release the detained Huawei executive ... or face grave consequences that the Canadian side should be held accountable for," Le said.

Roland Paris, a former foreign policy adviser to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, said that Chinese pressure on the Canadian government won't work.

Nation

Pearl Harbor survivor and Navy veteran recalls 1941 attack

HONOLULU (AP)—Retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. Don Long was alone on an anchored military seaplane in the middle of a bay across the island from Pearl Harbor when Japanese warplanes started striking Hawaii on December 7, 1941, watching from afar as the attack that killed and wounded thousands unfolded.

The Japanese planes reached his base on Kaneohe Bay soon after Pearl Harbor was hit, and the young sailor saw buildings and planes explode all around him.

When the gunfire finally reached him, setting the aircraft ablaze, he jumped into the water and swam through the flames to safety.

Now 97, Long marked the 77th anniversary from his home in Napa, California on Friday.

He shared some of his memories with The Associated Press:

DECADES OF ANNIVERSARIES

Long was fresh out of boot camp when he arrived in Hawaii in 1941.

"I got off that ship with my sea bag over my shoulder and we threw it on a truck and they carted me over to Kaneohe from Pearl Harbor where we had landed," Long recalled.

It was a different experience when he was flown to Hawaii for the 75th anniversary in 2016.

"We came in on a first class United chartered jet. All the girls with the leis were there with the Hawaiian music," he remembered. "We ended up not in a bunk in the barracks, but in a very nice ocean room."



Retired U.S. Navy Cmdr. Don Long holds up a replica of the military seaplane he was standing watch on when Japanese warplanes attacked Hawaii 77 years ago, Friday, Dec. 7, 2018 at his home in Napa, California. AP

Long said.

Long no longer harbors ill will against Japan or its people.

"I don't know when that feeling left me. But as you are probably well aware, we were taught to hate those people with all our hearts, and when you're looking at one down a gun sight, you can't really feel much love for anyone—that's for darn sure," he said.

"That has long since changed."

Long has not always marked the anniversary like he does now.

"For about 50, 60 years or

so, it was a day that rang a little bell to me, but I did not do much," he said. "In the past 20 or so (years), I take part in some kind of activity that I'll say is appropriate for the day."

This year, Long was visiting school children before attending a Pearl Harbor ceremony atop Mount Diablo in Concord, California.

On Friday morning at about the time of the attack, Long spoke with the AP at his home as he prepared for the day: "I recall the day very, very dis-

tinctly," he said, remembering "the day that started the war for our country that caused so, so much havoc. And I do recall the friends who never came back with, oh, much sadness."

In his office are about 25 photos of old planes on the wall including one of the type of aircraft he was aboard that day. There is also a photo of a Japanese plane similar to the one he believes attacked him.

He keeps about a half dozen medals, including his Purple Heart. On his dresser is a pho-

ACROSS THE NATION

Man arrested in Texas after telling kids Santa isn't real

DALLAS (AP)—Police say a 31-year-old protester who told children Santa Claus is not real has been arrested for trespassing at a North Texas church. Aaron Urbanski was arrested Saturday after authorities were called to a church in Cleburne, which was hosting a breakfast with Santa event.

Police say they found three people demonstrating outside the church after responding to a trespassing complaint. Authorities say Urbanski refused to leave and continued to cause a disturbance. Urbanski, who was charged with criminal trespass, has been booked into the Johnson County Law Enforcement Center.

Cleburne Mayor Scott Cain weighed in on Facebook, saying "Don't Mess With Santa!" The mayor continued: "Guess they want ed coal in their stockings to go

with a court appearance."

Dog that survived California wildfire guarded home for weeks

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A dog that survived the catastrophic wildfire in Northern California apparently protected the ruins of his home for almost a month until his owner returned. Madison was there waiting when Andrea Gaylord was allowed back to check on her burned property in Paradise this week. Gaylord fled when the Nov. 8 fire broke out and decimated the town of 27,000. An animal rescuer who responded to Gaylord's request to check on Madison first spotted the male Anatolian shepherd mix several days later. Shayla Sullivan said the outdoor guard dog was apprehensive and kept his distance. Sullivan left food and water for him regularly until

to of himself as a pilot in 1943. He also keeps one of his wife, who died 10 years ago.

His 1999 Volkswagen camper van has two magnetic signs — one with a photo of him and another reading "Remember Pearl Harbor." A special license plate notes he is a Pearl Harbor survivor.

A ROUTINE WEEKEND

Long remembers that weekend of the attack as routine, "or so it started out," he wrote in a 1992 essay that he provided to The Associated Press.

The 20-year-old from Minnesota enrolled in boot camp in March 1941, a "snotty nose kid, fresh off the farm." That Sunday morning was his first day of operational duty with the squadron he had been assigned to about a month earlier.

He took a small boat toward the awaiting Catalina flying boat, cruising across the turquoise waters of windward Oahu with Hawaii's 73-degree air splashing across his face.

"I recall it was a beautiful sunny day in Hawaii that morning," Long said.

He began preparing for a solitary day of signal drills and regular maintenance checks. He settled into the pilot's compartment to wait for contact from the beach signaling station to begin his drills.

A few minutes later, he heard the roar of airplanes overhead. In the distance, Long saw planes flying over hangars and buildings exploding. Another plane that was anchored nearby was hit and burst into flames.

New NASA lander captures 1st sounds of Martian wind

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA's new Mars lander has captured the first sounds of the "really unworldly" Martian wind.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory released audio clips of the alien wind Friday. The low-frequency rumblings were collected by the InSight lander during its first week of operations at Mars.

The wind is estimated to be blowing 10 mph to 15 mph (16 kph to 24 kph). These are the first sounds from Mars that are detectable by human ears, according to the researchers.

"Reminds me of sitting outside on a windy summer afternoon ... In some sense, this is what it would sound like if you were sitting on the InSight lander on Mars," Cornell University's Don Banfield told reporters.

Scientists involved in the

project agree the sound has an otherworldly quality to it.

Thomas Pike of Imperial College London said the rumbling is "rather different to anything that we've experienced on Earth, and I think it just gives us another way of thinking about how far away we are getting these signals."

The noise is of the wind blowing against InSight's solar panels and the resulting vibration of the entire spacecraft. The sounds were recorded by an air pressure sensor inside the lander that's part of a weather station, as well as the seismometer on the deck of the spacecraft.

The "really unworldly" sounds from InSight, meanwhile, have Banerdt imagining he's "on a planet that's in some ways like the Earth, but in some ways really alien." InSight landed on Mars on Nov. 26.

"We're all still on a high from the landing last week ... and here we are less than two weeks after landing, and we've already got some amazing new science," said NASA's Lori Glaze, acting director of planetary science. "It's cool, it's fun."

Gaylord got back on Wednesday. She also helped locate Madison's brother Miguel, another Anatolian shepherd mix that was taken to a shelter 85 miles (135 kilometers) away in the confusing aftermath of the wildfire. "If (the evacuees) can't be there I'm going to be and I'm not going to give up on their animal until they can get back in," Sullivan said. The dogs reunited Friday when Gaylord came back to the property with Miguel and brought Madison his favorite treat: a box of Wheat Thin crackers. Gaylord told news station ABC10 she couldn't ask for a better animal. "Imagine the loyalty of hanging in in the worst of circumstances and being here waiting," she said. "Their instinctual job is to watch the flocks and we're part of them," Gaylord said about her dogs. "It's a comforting feeling."

Asia

NZ police find body they believe is British tourist

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand police said Sunday they found a body they believe to be that of missing 22-year-old British tourist Grace Millane.

Police said the body was in a forested area about 10 meters (33 feet) from the side of the road in the Waitakere Ranges near Auckland.

Tourist Grace Millane has been missing since Dec. 1, and failed to contact her family on her birthday Dec. 2.

On Saturday, a 26-year-old man was charged with murder in her case after he was detained for questioning. He is due to make his first court appearance on Monday.

Millane was on a planned yearlong trip abroad that be-

gan in Peru. She arrived in New Zealand last month and was last seen entering a central Auckland hotel with a man on the evening of Dec. 1.

Detective Inspector Scott Beard told reporters near the crime scene in the Waitakere Ranges that police believe Millane's body was taken to the area in a rental car that was later left in the town of Taupo.

Police spent several hours searching the area, which they cordoned off and where they put up a tent, before making the announcement.

"This area was identified late last night as a location of interest as a result of our investigative work," Beard said. "I can now advise that a short time ago, we located a body,

which we believe to be Grace. A formal identification process will now take place, however, based on the evidence we have gathered over the past few days, we expect that this is Grace."

Millane's father David Millane traveled from Britain to New Zealand last week.

"It is an unbearable time for the Millane family, and our

hearts go out to them," Beard said.

Before she vanished, Millane had been staying at a backpacker hostel in Auckland, and she left some of her belongings there. Beard said she met a man for a couple of hours on the evening of Dec. 1 before surveillance cameras showed them entering the CityLife hotel at about 9:40 p.m.

Her family was surprised and worried when she didn't contact them on her birthday or get in touch over on the days that followed.

After arriving in New Zealand on Friday, David Millane spoke with media.

"Grace is a lovely, outgoing, fun-loving, family-oriented daughter," he said, adding that

she was usually in touch with her family every day.

"She arrived here on the 20th of November, and has been bombarding us with numerous photographs and messages of her adventures," Millane said. "We are all extremely upset, and it's very difficult at this time to fully describe the range of emotions we are going through."



AP

A police officer investigating the murder of British tourist Grace Millane stands at a crime scene along a section of Scenic Drive in the Waitakere Ranges outside Auckland, New Zealand, Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan OKs divisive bill allowing more foreign workers

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese lawmakers early Saturday approved government-proposed legislation allowing hundreds of thousands of foreign laborers to live and work in a country that has long resisted accepting outsiders. The contentious legislation passed only months after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed the plan despite opposition groups' demand for more thorough debate to address concerns about a drastic change of policy. It's seen as an unavoidable step as the country's population of about 126 million rapidly ages and shrinks. Many short-handed industries, especially in the services sector, already rely heavily on foreign "trainees" and language students. Japan also selectively grants visas to white-collar professionals, often from the West. Bringing in foreign laborers is a last resort after Abe's deeply conservative government tried to meet labor shortages by encouraging more employment of women and older workers and using more robots and other automation. "Japan has come to a point where we had to face the reality that there is serious depopulation and serious aging,"

said Toshihiro Menju, an expert on foreign labor and population issues at the Japan Center for International Exchange. "Shortages of workers are so serious ... that (allowing) immigrants is the only option the government can take," he said. Abe's latest plan calls for relaxing Japan's visa requirements in sectors facing severe labor shortages such as construction, nursing, farming, transport and tourism—new categories of jobs to be added to the current list of highly skilled professionals.

12 killed as bus plunges into rocky gorge in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—At least 12 people were killed and 18 others injured on Saturday after a bus fell into a rocky gorge along a mountainous road in Indian-controlled Kashmir, officials said. Civil administrator Rahul Yadav said the bus plunged off a Himalayan mountain road as its driver negotiated a curve near southern Poonch town and fell into 60-meter-deep (200-foot-deep) rocky gorge. Yadav said the bus ripped into several parts after hitting the rocks. The injured were hospitalized, including at least five in critical condition. India has the world's deadliest roads, with

hundreds and thousands of people killed and injured annually. Most crashes are blamed on reckless driving, poorly maintained roads and aging vehicles.

Police arrest 5 'terrorists' planning attacks in Pakistan

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani counter-terrorism police say they have arrested five "terrorists" who were planning attacks on security agencies and seized explosive vests and weapons in the country's east. Senior officer Rai Tahir says Saturday that a group of five men belonging to the banned militant organization Tehreek-e-Taliban had planned to attack intelligence agency offices in the city of Bahawalpur. Tahir said teams of counter-terrorism police raided the men's hideout. He said suicide jackets, hand grenades, lethal weapons, ammunition and money to finance their operations were seized. Tahir said an initial investigation revealed that Tehreek-e-Taliban was coordinating with al-Qaeda for attacks on security agencies in Punjab province. Militants in Pakistan have carried out numerous attacks, mainly targeting security forces. Most in recent years have been linked to the Pakistani Taliban.

Duterte seeks martial law extension in southern PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has asked Congress to extend martial law in the country's south by another year amid continuing concerns over possible militant attacks, although democracy advocates fear it could worsen human rights conditions.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Friday that ending martial law could undermine progress by government forces in quelling insurgents "and may even strengthen the rebellion and propel it to other parts of the country."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he, along the military and police, backed the extension of martial law in the country's southern third, because Muslim extremists, including five to 10 foreign fighters, continue to plot bombings and other attacks.

Duterte placed the southern Mindanao region under martial law after hundreds of Islamic State group-linked militants besieged the Islamic city of Marawi on May 23, 2017, in the worst security crisis he has faced.

After five months, Philippine troops quelled the siege, which left more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

The government has successfully asked Congress twice to allow an extension of martial rule in the south, the homeland of minority Muslims and site of decades-old Muslim separatist insurrections.

"With martial law in place, we have achieved substantial progress in addressing the re-

World

Concert stampede in Italy leaves 6 dead, over 50 hurt

CORINALDO, Italy (AP)—Teenagers panicked before a rap concert at a jammed Italian disco, setting off a stampede that killed five of them and a mother who had brought her daughter to the event, authorities and survivors said. Fifty-three people were reported injured, including 13 in very serious condition.

Several survivors said panic spread through the late-night crowd after someone unleashed an irritant spray. Investigators said they were checking those reports.

Video on state TV RaiNews24 showed scores of teenagers rushing out a door and surging toward a low wall near an exit at the Blue Lantern disco in the central Italian town of Corinaldo, near Ancona on the Adriatic coast. The barrier then gives way and a cascade of teenagers tumble over it, falling on top of each other.

The bodies of the trampled victims were all found near a low wall, Ancona Firefighters Cmdr. Dino Poggiali told



Carabinieri officers stand in front of the disco 'Lanterna Azzurra' in Corinaldo, central Italy, Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018. AP

Sky TG24 News. State radio said most of the dead had their skulls crushed in the melee.

The victims — three girls

and two boys — ranged in age from 14 to 16 and the mother who was killed was 39, said Col. Cristian Carrozza, com-

mander of the Ancona province Carabinieri paramilitary police.

"Close down the place, convict someone. Who's going to give me back my son?" Giuseppe Orlandi, fighting back tears, told reporters after he had identified the body of his son, Mattia, 15, in a hospital morgue.

The stampede occurred shortly after 1 a.m., less than 30 minutes before the concert by Italian rapper Sfera Ebbasta was to begin.

Authorities said organizers had sold far too many tickets for the space. Ancona Chief Prosecutor Monica Garulli told reporters that about 1,400 tickets were sold but the disco was only able to hold about 870 people.

Later, Premier Giuseppe Conte, who visited the scene, said the disco had three rooms but inexplicably only used one for the concert, and it only holds 469 people.

While prosecutors investigate "the government must ask itself what to do so that such tragedies must never happen again," Conte said.

The woman who was killed, Eleanora Girolimini, had four children and had accompanied her 11-year-old daughter to the concert, her husband, Paolo, told reporters. The girl was treated for a knee injury.

Outside the hospital where the bodies were brought, he lashed out at the event's organizers, saying that many at the event were drunk.

Mexico president blasts 'stratospheric' supreme court wages

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican president is butting heads with the Supreme Court just one week into office after judges suspended a law that would cap public sector salaries, one of his key campaign promises.

President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador accused the judges of looking after their own pocketbooks and of failing to grasp the "new reality" that his administration represents. The salary cuts are part of a rebalance in government that aims to raise wages for lower income workers while chopping those of top officials.

"They themselves decide that they are going to keep receiving exaggerated, stratospheric salaries—salaries of up to 600,000 pesos

(\$29,000) a month—those who impart justice," Lopez Obrador complained to reporters Saturday, before repeating one of his favorite mantras: "There can't be a rich government with a poor people."

The freeze throws into question the government's 2019 budget plans, which are due on Dec. 15. The suspension is pending a definitive ruling by the court.

The Mexican Congress decreed in November that, with few exceptions, no public employee should earn more than the president. Lopez Obrador's Morena party has a majority in both houses of Congress. The National Human Rights Commission then asked the court to review the

law, saying it appeared to violate the constitution.

Lopez Obrador slashed the presidential salary by more than half when he took office on Dec. 1, to 108,000 pesos (\$5,300) a month.

Mexico has the lowest wages of any country in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with a net income per capita of \$1,281 per month.

The proposed salary cuts have caused great uncertainty for many public sector workers, with those who can leaving posts for jobs in the private sector.

Lopez Obrador said Saturday that he expects the legislative branch to have the final say on salaries, since they approve the annual budget.

Protesters march as UN climate talks hit fossil fuel snag

KATOWICE, Poland

(AP)—Thousands of people from around the world marched Saturday through the southern Polish city that's hosting this year's U.N. climate talks, demanding that their governments take tougher action to curb global warming.

Protesters included farmers from Latin America, environmentalists from Asia, students from the United States and families from Europe, many of whom said climate change is already affecting their lives.

"Climate change is the thing that frightens me the most," said Michal Dabrowski from Warsaw, who brought his young daughter to the march. "I'm a father and it's kind of crucial that she will have a decent life." Marchers gathered in one of Katowice's main squares before setting off for the conference center where delegates from almost 200 countries are haggling over the fine print of the 2015 Paris accord to fight climate change.

Some protesters were dressed as endangered orangutans while others wore breathing masks to highlight the air pollution in Katowice, which lies at the heart of Poland's coal mining region of Silesia.

A group wearing polar bear costumes was expelled from the march after suggesting that fossil fuels should be replaced by nuclear power, a technology that many environmental-

ists object to.

Chanting "Wake up! It's time to save our home!" and holding banners including one reading "Make the planet great again," protesters marched through Katowice accompanied by a heavy police presence that included officers on horseback.

The "March for Climate" passed largely peacefully, though three people were detained after a small scuffle with police, a Katowice police spokeswoman said.

Earlier Saturday, environmental groups had complained that some of their activists were being turned back at the Polish border or deported. One Belgian activist was allowed to enter the country after her country's ambassador intervened with Polish authorities.

Poland has introduced temporary random identity checks ahead of the U.N. climate conference, arguing they were needed for security.

Inside the U.N. meeting, negotiators were concluding the first week of talks, which are focused on finalizing the Paris rulebook that determines how signatories to the 2015 deal record and report their greenhouse gas emissions.

In a recent report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said drastic action would be needed to achieve the Paris accord's most ambitious target of keep-

ing global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Illustrating the sensitivity of this message for some governments, major oil exporting countries including Saudi Arabia and Russia objected to "welcoming" the IPCC's report. The issue is now one of several that will be left to government ministers, who begin arriving in Katowice on Monday to try to break remaining deadlocks.

Environmental groups want countries to send a strong signal that they're ready for more ambitious action in the years ahead, but some protesters Saturday felt that governments alone would not do enough to fight climate change.

"I've had enough of just sitting and looking at politicians deciding things for us. It's time for us to tell them what we want and to start a grassroots revolution," said Anna Zalikowska.

Similar marches for the environment took place in France on Saturday, but those were overshadowed by a larger "yellow vest" protest in Paris staged by people angry over fuel tax increases.

The tax rise, now put on hold, was aimed at encouraging drivers to reduce their use of fossil fuels, a measure experts say is necessary to nudge consumers toward cleaner alternatives.

Health & Wellness

For a long life, consider picking up a tennis racket

By KAREN KAPLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

You probably know that exercise is good for you, but do you know whether you're better off riding a bike or swimming laps in the pool?

Actually, if you want to get the biggest bang for your exercise buck, you should pick up a racket, new research reveals.

An analysis of more than 80,000 adults who were tracked for nearly a decade finds that those who played tennis, badminton or squash had the lowest risk of dying during the course of the study. Compared with people who didn't play racket sports, those who did were 47 percent less likely to die of any cause and 56 percent less likely to die as a result of cardiovascular disease.

If these kinds of sports aren't your racket, you could don a swimsuit and goggles. In the study, swimmers were 28 percent less likely to die for any

reason and 41 percent less likely to die of cardiovascular disease than were people who stayed out of the water.

Another good alternative is to join an aerobics, Zumba or other type of active fitness class. Those who did were 27 percent less likely to die of any cause and 36 percent less likely to die of cardiovascular disease during the study period than those who didn't.

The results, published Tuesday in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, are based on data from 43,705 women and 36,601 men who participated in the Health Survey for England or the Scottish Health Survey. These volunteers, whose average age was 52, told interviewers how often they exercised, what type of exercise they did and how intense their workouts were.

Swimming was the most popular type of exercise, claimed by 13.4 percent of study volunteers. Cycling was second, with 9.9 percent of volunteers saying they rode a bike either

A new study found that among amateur athletes, tennis players had the best odds of staving off premature death.

outside or in an indoor exercise class. Aerobics-type classes were third (6.4 percent of people took them), followed by running or jogging (5 percent), racket sports (3.6 percent) and football or rugby (3.1 percent). Overall, 44.3 percent of people met minimum recommendations for some kind of physical activity.

The study authors checked to see how many of the volunteers died in subsequent years, tracking them for an average of 9.2 years. Overall, 8,790 of the study participants died, including 1,909 who succumbed to cardiovascular disease.

The risk of death was not spread equally, the researchers found.

Compared with people who didn't get enough exercise, those who met the minimum standards were 27 percent less likely to die of any reason and 28 percent less likely to die of cardiovascular disease during the course of the study.

Cyclists had a 15 percent lower risk of death from any cause than noncyclists, but cycling didn't have a significant effect on the risk of cardiovascular death.

Runners and joggers were no less likely than their counterparts to die of cardiovascular disease or anything else during the study period. Ditto for those who played football or rugby.

All of the calculations were adjust-

ed to account for each person's age, level of education, body mass index, underlying physical and psychological health, smoking status and drinking habits.

For all six types of exercise, the median age of death from any cause was "considerably lower" for participants than for nonparticipants. (The age gap ranged from 3.6 years for aerobics to 23 years for football and rugby.) The study authors said this pattern was due to the fact that for every sport, the median age of participants was lower than the median age for nonparticipants. It should not be taken as a sign that exercise "leads to earlier death," they wrote.

Mindfulness is a type of meditation in which you focus on being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment. Practicing mindfulness involves breathing methods, guided imagery, and other practices to relax the body and mind and help reduce stress.

Spending too much time planning, problem-solving, daydreaming, or thinking negative or random thoughts can be draining. It can also make you more likely to experience stress, anxiety and symptoms of depression. Practicing mindfulness exercises can help you direct your attention away from this kind of thinking and engage with the world around you.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MEDITATION?

Meditation has been studied in many clinical trials. The overall evidence supports the effectiveness of meditation for various conditions, including:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Pain
- Depression
- Insomnia
- High blood pressure (hypertension)

Preliminary research indicates that meditation can also help people with asthma and fibromyalgia.

Meditation can help you experience thoughts and emotions with greater balance and acceptance. Meditation also has been shown to:

- Improve attention
- Decrease job burnout
- Improve sleep
- Improve diabetes control

WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF MINDFULNESS EXERCISES?

There are many simple ways to practice mindfulness. Some examples include:

- Pay attention.

It's hard to slow down and notice things in a busy world. Try to take the time to experience your environment with all of your senses—touch, sound, sight, smell and taste. For example, when you eat a favorite food, take the time to smell, taste and truly enjoy it.

- Live in the moment.

Try to intentionally bring an open, accepting and discerning attention to everything you do. Find joy in simple pleasures.

- Accept yourself.

Treat yourself the way you would treat a good friend.

Focus on your breathing.

When you have negative thoughts, try to sit down, take a deep breath and close your eyes. Focus on your breath as it moves in and out of your body. Sitting and breathing for even just a minute can help. You can also try more structured mindfulness exercises, such as:

- Body scan meditation.

Lie on your back with your legs extended and arms at your sides, palms facing up. Focus your attention slowly and deliberately on each part of your body, in order, from toe to head or head to toe. Be aware of any sensations, emotions or thoughts associated with each part of your body.

- Sitting meditation.

Sit comfortably with your back straight, feet flat on the floor and hands in your lap. Breathing through your nose, focus on your breath moving in and out of your body. If physical sensations or thoughts interrupt your meditation, note the experience and then return your focus to your breath.

- Walking meditation.

Find a quiet place 10 to 20 feet in length, and begin to walk slowly. Focus on the experience of walking, be-

ing aware of the sensations of standing and the subtle movements that keep your balance. When you reach the end of your path, turn and continue walking, maintaining awareness of your sensations.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN SHOULD I PRACTICE MINDFULNESS EXERCISES?

It depends on what kind of mindfulness exercise you plan to do.

Simple mindfulness exercises can be practiced anywhere and anytime. Research indicates that engaging your senses outdoors is especially beneficial.

For more structured mindfulness exercises, such as body scan meditation or sitting meditation, you'll need to set aside time when you can be in a quiet place without distractions or interruptions. You might choose to practice this type of exercise early in the morning before you begin your daily routine.

Aim to practice mindfulness every day for about six months. Over time, you might find that mindfulness becomes effortless. Think of it as a commitment to reconnecting with and nurturing yourself. (Mayo Clinic News Network)

This advertorial is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin Foundation



How to practice mindfulness exercises



LifeStyle

she gets better with age

NEW YORK (AP)—Julia Roberts is sitting on a couch in a Soho hotel when Lucas Hedges bursts in and begins frantically searching for his phone, sending pillows flying.

"This is what I say to Finn," Roberts says, referencing one of her three children as she instructs her 21-year-old costar. "Where did you go from here, honey?"

Roberts' motherly instincts play a big part of her latest film, "Ben Is Back." Written and directed by Peter Hedges ("Dan in Real Life," and the father of Lucas), "Ben Is Back" is about a son (Lucas) home from rehab for Christmas. The short visit resurrects past demons and present temptations for Ben, testing his mother's anxious balance of trust and suspicion.

It's the second standout performance this fall for Roberts, who also stars in Amazon's acclaimed conspiracy thriller "Homecoming" as a government-sponsored caseworker coaxing soldiers back into civilian life. It's a more dramatic chapter for Roberts, the most quintessential of movie stars, who at 51 is stretching in new directions that are increasingly further afield from the frothier romantic comedies she built her career on.

"With age comes more complexity of possible parts," Roberts said in a recent interview. "You know, I'm happy and I have fun at home, so it would take a lot for someone to say: 'Look, you can play this part where you're happy and have fun.' Well, I just do that at home!"

It can take a lot to get Roberts away from home. Hedges at one point jokingly suggested shooting "Ben Is Back" in her backyard. She's notoriously picky, generally acting in one film a year, and that's become iffier considering, as she says, there's "a whole lot of math" that needs to factor her kids' school schedule and that of her husband, cinematographer Danny Moder. Roberts has, quite contentedly, largely withdrawn from the limelight. She knits. She plays Mahjong with girlfriends once a week. She will watch "Point Break" anytime it's on TV.

But she still wears the role of movie star about as comfortably as anyone ever has, and in person she is—to an almost disarming degree—precisely as you'd expect. She remains genuinely, breezily, unaffectedly herself, a quality that has made countless feel as if they know—really know—her. Roberts grants that the public's impression of her is "probably relatively accurate," something few who have graced so many tabloid covers in their lifetime can do. "I mean, I'm not interested in trying to seem cooler than I am or something," she says.

Still, Roberts, a four-time Oscar nominee and one-time winner ("Erin Brockovich"), is also indelibly linked to the '90s and '00s pre-digital movie era when stars, not superheroes, still ruled the box office. Times have changed; her breakthrough film, 1990's "Pretty Woman," is now a Broadway musical. Roberts recently had the

out-of-body experience attending it alongside Barbara Marshall, wife of the film's late director Garry Marshall.

"I wasn't prepared for how profoundly it made me miss Garry," she said, choking up.

"I wasn't prepared for how all of the improvs that I created are in a Broadway book now," she says. "People are saying things that I was just making up, just vampiring."

And long before pay equality became an industry-wide concern, Roberts was among Hollywood's highest paid stars. Asked about the #MeToo movement and Hollywood gender parity, Roberts replied, "You can never rest."

"You think that's sorted and you come around a corner and then how is it not sorted suddenly? How is it not fair?" she says, noting a few advancements that hit home for her and her family: equal pay for women surfers and Manchester United launching a women's team. "Things like this give me hope that our business can keep making strides, because every year that it's 'the year of the woman,' you kind of go: Again? Let's just have it always be the year of the artists. If we have to keep spotlighting the gender of this and the gender of that, we're kind of blowing it."

Lately, Roberts has been trying some new things. She joined Instagram in June. "Homecoming" is her first foray into a TV series. Roberts insisted Sam Esmail ("Mr. Robot") direct all the episodes and that all the scripts be completed before shooting began.



In this Dec. 3, 2018 photo, actress Julia Roberts poses for a portrait in New York to promote her film, "Ben is Back." AP

She similarly helped shape "Ben Is Back," pushing for Peter Hedges to cast his son, the in-demand breakout star of "Manchester by the Sea," a tall task because Lucas has deliberately sought to establish himself outside of his father's shadow.

"When Julia read the script and met with me, I came with a list of actors that I thought would be good for the part, and Lucas wasn't on that list," Peter Hedges said by phone. "Before I could even share that list with her she said: 'Lucas needs to play this part.' I said, 'One, I don't think he's available, and, two, I don't think he would ever want to do a film with me.' Once she signed on, she began a very persuasive and I think classy campaign. She made effort to let him know that she thought he should do the film with her."

It is, alas, hard to say no to Julia Roberts. The actress later invited Lucas to her Malibu home where she says he became part of the family, hanging out and taking

her kids to the beach. Making "Ben Is Back" was for her less about channeling her own parental nightmares than fostering a relationship with her fictional son.

"Spending time with Lucas meant that I had heart-space with him, and that is what I called upon and relied upon for the movie," says Roberts. "Separation is important. Especially in the middle of the night when you're playing a scene over and over again, you just have to have so much clarity about that jumping off point. I think that helps it be super clear and fair. I don't want to drag my kids through this crap."

Like much of Roberts' best recent work, including "Wonder" and "August: Osage County" (for which she received an Oscar nomination), "Ben Is Back" revolves around family, both on and off screen. While her next film, "Little Bee," is a drama, too, Roberts hasn't turned away from romantic comedies for good.

"It's just two delicious

things put together," says Roberts. "It's like spending months wrapping a present for people. They're really hard to make well, so I don't begrudge their absence because I'd rather not see a bunch of really bad ones."

But "Ben is Back" and "Homecoming" have allowed Roberts to expand on the dramatic work she did with Steven Soderbergh ("Erin Brockovich") and Mike Nichols ("Closer," "Charlie Wilson's War"), who once said of the actress: "Her face is made by God to express thought and feeling."

What's left for Roberts to prove? To her, that's not the question.

"I've never been in the proving business, but I do reside very humbly in the I-want-to-impress-you business," says Roberts, noting her husband is at the top of that list. "I just remember the feeling of walking on the set everyday with my beloved Mike Nichols and thinking: What can I do in my work today that he'll go: 'I didn't see that coming.'"

With Kevin Hart's downfall, hosting the Oscars got harder

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The “most thankless job in town” just got even more difficult.

The Oscars have a long-standing host problem, but Kevin Hart’s swift downfall over old anti-gay tweets has led to bigger questions about the gig and the liability of social media histories.

It’s just the latest controversy for the organization that puts on the Academy Awards, which is trying to combat declining ratings for its marquee event while weathering the pressure of being a focal point for the shortcomings of the entertainment industry as a whole.

“I think it’s embarrassing,” Matthew Belloni, the editorial director of The Hollywood Reporter, said about the academy’s decision to pick Hart. “It shows that they either didn’t vet this host properly, or they did vet him and didn’t think this would be an issue. And both are a little troubling.”

Hart seemed to fit the bill for what the academy was looking for.

“He checks all the boxes for a show like the Oscars,” Belloni said. “He’s a legitimate movie star. He’s a funny guy and can handle the stand-up element of the show. And he has a gigantic social following. And to the academy, that’s important. They want someone who can bring a new audience to the show.”

But Oscars hosts have always been subjected to a lot of scrutiny.

Poor or even mediocre performances can haunt people for years (Anne Hathaway and James Franco). Off-color jokes have a way of festering in the cultural consciousness (think of Seth MacFarlane’s “we saw your boobs” song, or Chris Rock’s Asian jokes). And even when things go decently enough, everyone is handed the right envelope and nobody walks away offended,

the hosts can still be blamed for poor ratings.

“Oscars host has become a not very desirable job in Hollywood. Very few people see an upside,” Belloni said. “You put a huge target on your back.”

People have stepped down from being the public face of the event amid controversy, as producer Brett Ratner did in 2011 for anti-gay slurs. But Hart’s case is a little different. Ratner’s offensive remarks came after he had secured the gig. Hart’s tweets were from almost a decade ago and were well known.

But in 2018, an unsavory social media past can cost someone their job. Just this past summer, the Walt Disney Co. fired director James Gunn from the third “Guardians of

the Galaxy” movie for old tweets in which he joked about subjects including rape and pedophilia. As with Hart, the problematic tweets were amplified by social media outrage.

Hart

Immediately after Hart was confirmed as host on Tuesday night, some journalists began tweeting reminders of Hart’s past comments. By Thursday morning, a few publications had written articles about them. The outrage escalated, Hart commented but did not apologize, stoking even more outrage, which culminated with Hart’s announcement on Thursday night that he was stepping down as host of the 91st Academy Awards.

As the dust settles, the situation has proved vexing for some in the entertainment business. Actor D.L. Hughley commended Hart for his decision.

“A Comedian says something that offends people and refuses to apologize?” Hughley tweeted. “(Expletive) ‘em if they can’t take a joke! Well done #KevinHart.” Snoop Dogg posted an even more colorful Instagram video in support of Hart.

The advocacy organization GLAAD wishes Hart hadn’t stepped down, however.

“Hart’s apology to LGBTQ people is an important step forward, but he missed a real opportunity to use his plat-

form and the Oscars stage to build unity and awareness,” said GLAAD President and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis.

The film academy has yet to address Hart’s departure. Hart said the film academy told him he had to apologize or he’d lose the gig. He bowed out on his own, and with an apology.

Now everyone has an opinion about who should be named host. A woman? A comedian? Not a comedian? Someone in the LGBTQ community? All of the above?

Many keep coming back to Whoopi Goldberg, who has hosted the awards four times. Some have said Ellen DeGeneres, who hosted one of the Oscars’ highest-rated shows, or Tom Hanks, who has a

longstanding academy relationship.

Others have said Keegan Michael-Key and Jordan Peele, Will Smith or Lin-Manuel Miranda. Busy Phillips threw her own name out there (“I AM AVAILABLE,” she tweeted). Phillips also proposed Issa Rae, Sarah Silverman, Ali Wong, Samantha Bee, Robin Thede and Aisha Tyler, or “any other woman working in Hollywood right now who wants to.” Stephen King suggested Patton Oswalt (He’s “funny, sharp-tongued, and he knows film,” King tweeted.) Some have even proposed Philadelphia Flyers mascot Gritty. Or no host at all, which has been done several times before, and as recently as 1989.

After a long, bumpy journey, ‘Mowgli’ settles in at Netflix

LOS ANGELES (AP)—To say Andy Serkis has been through the wringer with his adaptation of Rudyard Kipling’s “The Jungle Book” is a bit of an understatement. It was always going to be an ambitious project for a first time director—dark, intense and more in the spirit of Kipling’s stories, with a big studio (Warner Bros.) behind it, a blockbuster budget, A-list talent to match, from Christian Bale to Cate Blanchett, and all the high-pressure stakes that go along with that.

But five years ago when he signed up to direct, Serkis didn’t know that Walt Disney Studios would soon be announcing its own live-action Jungle Book, which would beat his to theaters by over two years and become a nearly billion dollar box-office sensation. And no one would have guessed that at the 11th-hour this summer, after promotions had already begun, his own

studio would sell his version to Netflix.

“This wasn’t the easiest ride for anybody,” Serkis said on a recent afternoon. “It really did go through a massively long journey.”

Serkis was even able to direct another movie (“Breathe”) and star in at least one (“War for the Planet of the Apes”) during the post production for “Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle” which debuted on the streaming service Friday.

The affable Serkis, kind and soft-spoken, who made his name as a pioneering talent in motion capture performance in “The Lord of the Rings,” “The Hobbit” and “The Planet of the Apes” films, is just excited people are finally going to get to see his passion project.

The Callie Kloves-written screenplay takes the Mowgli myth away from the sunny, toe-tapping Disney ver-



Serkis

sions, and back to Kipling’s original vision of the boy raised by wolves.

Actor Rohan Chand (“Lone Survivor”) was brought on to lead the film at age 10 (he’s now 14), opposite heavyweight actors like Bale, who plays Bagheera, Blanchett as Kaa, Benedict Cumberbatch as Shere Khan, Naomie Harris as Nisha and Serkis himself as Baloo.

“I actually grew up reading Rudyard Kipling short stories,” Chand said. “I love Mowgli. He was almost like my hero in a way.”

In order to see through Serkis’s grand vision, Chand had to essentially shoot the film twice. First with the “A” talent like Bale and Cumberbatch, wearing motion capture tech on their faces and arms, and then again on location with a different set of actors mim-

icking the movements of the jungle animals.

“Rohan was extraordinary,” Serkis said of his young star who he helped guide through some intense scenes, emotionally and physically. “He had to endure real physical pain and a lot of technical challenges which he did with great ease.”

For parents wondering whether or not their young ones should watch, Serkis said it depends on you as a parent. The Motion Picture Association of America gave it a PG-13 rating.

“There is nothing in it that is gratuitous. There is no violence that is gratuitous. It is the lore of the jungle and there is violence and there is animal violence but it is not overly gory and it’s not enjoying it in a salacious way. It’s truthful storytelling and totally represents the level of darkness that’s in the book,” Serkis said. “It’s an emotional story, it’s an intense story. That’s

what separates it from other versions.”

Serkis was deep into planning when Disney’s version was announced, and, although he knew the films would be quite different, there was still pressure to be first. Once that “went away” when Disney beat them to theaters, Serkis said, they decided to take the time they needed to refine the story and get the performances and the technology right.

The Netflix switch was not a third act complication Serkis could have foreseen, however.

In April, Serkis and a few cast members were part of a massive Warner Bros. presentation to the nation’s theater exhibitors in Las Vegas. Then this summer, on the last day of doing one of the final mixes for the film, he got a call from the studio.

“They said, we’ve shown it to Netflix. They really love the movie and want to acquire it,” Serkis said. He was shocked.

Wife resists giving support to man’s new career plan

DEAR ABBY: I am an older IT professional (58) who had a very successful career until a year ago. I was part of a major layoff at the company I worked at for many years. I have not been able to find a job in the IT field since.

Besides my skills and knowledge in IT, I’m an accomplished handyman with skills in most of the trades. The issue is, my wife is insistent that I get another job in IT—mostly for the benefits.

Older IT workers have a very hard time finding work in the field. I’d like to start a handyman company since I enjoy this kind of work. If I start a handyman business, my wife, for the first time, would have to go from being a part-time worker at her job to full time to provide us with benefits. This will cause a lot of strain on our marriage because she has made it clear she does not want to work full time.

I think she’s being selfish. I have provided her with a very nice lifestyle for many years and feel it’s time she step up and do her part. I’m not sure how to broach the subject without an argument ensuing. Help?

SWITCHING GEARS IN NEW YORK

DEAR SWITCHING: Expect an argument and be prepared for it. You are not responsible for having been laid off.

It seems there is plenty of ageism in your field, and it isn’t surprising you can’t find a comparable job in IT when the preference appears to be for hiring younger, cheaper workers.

Frankly, you are fortunate to have both an alternative and the initiative to start a handyman business. Good handymen are hard to find, and your wife should make the effort to support you in what could be a successful endeavor once it gets on its feet. That’s what partners in life are supposed to do, isn’t it?

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together for a couple of years. He has three siblings, all in their 20s, none married.

Today I received a group email from his mom addressed to him, his father, his grandmother, all three siblings and their boyfriends/girlfriends (including me) asking for Christmas wish lists. She wants to know what we would like for Christmas and would like all of us to “reply all” on the email so everyone else will have ideas for Christmas presents.

I don’t know how to respond! I don’t want to appear greedy, but I do like the idea that she wants to get us all presents that we will like. Can you give me any suggestions on the best way to respond?

PERPLEXED IN ALABAMA

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

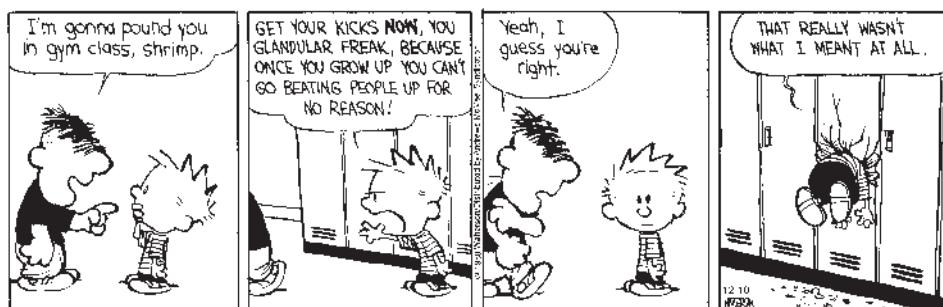


DEAR PERPLEXED: Your boyfriend’s mother is a generous—and sensible—woman. She is soliciting ideas because she doesn’t want to waste her time or money buying something the recipient won’t like. Answer her question. Tell her what you would like, as long as it isn’t something that will break the bank. Your boyfriend can probably give you some hints about her budget. I suggest you talk to him about it.

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

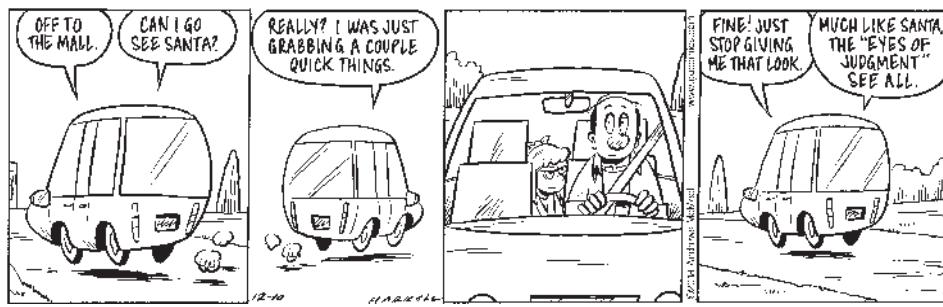
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By Jim Davis



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By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		37	Sea off	4	Extras	20	HBO
1 "Frozen"	snow	40	Part of Poland	5	Fluffy	competitor	
queen		41	Curved UCLA	6	Web address	body powder	
5 Vagrant		42	molding Winter	7	Relating to La	nullify	
8 Nile vipers		43	malady	23	Meager	Meager	
12 Indian cooking style		44	Marries	25	Cooking show	from	
14 Detail, briefly		45	Intensify	8	Italian cheese	Japan	
15 Telemarketeer's tactic		46	Pants part	9	Espy	Set down	
16 Teeny bit		47	"30 Rock"	10	Sampras of	Lady of Spain	
17 Surprised cries		48	Tina of	51	Gaelic	Roman 402	
18 Lessened		49	"30 Rock"	52	Large amount	Under-standing	
20 Dazzles		50	Phil	11	List-end-ing abbr.	Most recent	
23 Tight-fitting		51	Tampa	13	Folk-singer	recent	
24 Painter Holbein		52	NBC	19	Bay	34 Brawn	
25 Freezing		53	sketch	20	team, for short	36 Fizzy drink	
28 On in years		54	show	21	1	37 Fiddle sticks	
29 Boorish		55		2	2 List-end-ing abbr.	38 Writer James	
30 Fine, at NASA		56		3	3 Folk-singer	39 Castor's mother	
32 Brewski		57		4	4 Folks	40 Frilly	
34 Ore source		58		5	5 NBC	43 Language suffix	
35 "— She Sweet"		59		6	6 Skell tool	44 Scull tool	
36 Egypt's neighbor		60		7	7 Sketch	45 USN officers	
				8	8 Show	46 Scottish river	

Solution time: 21 mins.



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Raven-Symone, 33; Emmanuelle Chriqui, 43; Meg White, 44; Kenneth Branagh, 58.

Happy Birthday: You'll want to do things on a big scale this year, but don't lose sight of practicality. Play it safe. Take your time to reach your destination. Iron out problems and you'll distinguish yourself as a fixer. Let wisdom be your guide instead of following or trusting someone to lead you. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 27, 31, 38, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look at the full extent of your current situation. Check your financial position and consider how best to ensure you don't incur debt. A minimalist plan should be put in place until you feel there is less uncertainty in your life. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take control. Enact changes you want to make, not those someone else is pressuring you into. Protect your reputation, your physical and emotional health and your ability to do what's best for you. Speak from the heart. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you are too enthusiastic, you'll be taken advantage of. Observation will be in your best interest. Someone offering praise and compliments will have ulterior motives. Gather facts and size up situations based on your findings, not what someone tells you. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the initiative and get things done your way. Your input will be welcomed and your ability to sort through matters will help resolve issues that have been hanging over your head.

Put things to rest and enjoy year-end festivities. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for opportunities and make changes that will ease stress and help you prepare to close the year on a high note. Refrain from overspending or being indulgent when out with friends. Offer quick wit, humor and help to others. ★★★

VIRO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look at the possibilities. Structure your time to ensure you make the most of each moment. How you deal with others will reflect who you are and what lies ahead. Say no to indulgent behavior and those asking too much. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at the big picture before you make a gesture that will be judged. You are best to stick to what you know you can accomplish without the help of others. An idea may sound good, but interference will stifle your plans. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make plans to engage in activities that are creative and fun. Share your thoughts and you will receive interesting responses that will feed your imagination and lead to creative ideas. Personal changes and romantic endeavors will improve your life. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Manipulative tactics will be used to convince you to make a change. Don't let emotions take over, undermining your intelligence and ability to stay on track and do things according to the rules. Look for answers within and follow your heart. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the initiative and get things done your way. Your input will be welcomed and your ability to sort through matters will help resolve issues that have been hanging over your head.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. Consider what you'd like to see happen and do the legwork to bring your plans to fruition. Don't let what others do ruin your plans. Personal change will lead to gain. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put in extra hours if they will buy you the freedom to enjoy the end-of-year festivities. Deal with institutional affairs that are due for an update. You'll put your mind at ease, allowing you to enjoy life. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Lend a helping hand at your local community center. If you can bring joy to those less fortunate, you will feel you have accomplished something good. Your kind gesture will result in an unexpected gift or financial reward. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable, caring and optimistic. You are helpful and courageous.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

3	8	4		
	9		8	2
4		5 6	1	
2	6 3	9		8
7			6	
4	6	2 5	1	
9	4 2		6	
6	4	2		
	7	5	8	

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	5	1	3	8	6	9	2
8	6	9	2	5	7	4	1	3
2	3	1	9	6	4	8	5	7
1	8	7	6	4	2	9	3	5
3	5	2	7	8	9	1	4	6
6	9	4	3	1	5	2	7	8
4	7	8	5	2	1	3	6	9
9	2	3	4	7	6	5	8	1
5	1	6	8	9	3	7	2	4

12/10 12/11

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

2018 INVICTUS GAMES

Solution: 6 letters

A	P	Y	R	R	A	H	P	I	N	C	E	L
R	F	O	R	O	R	E	B	O	T	C	O	K
C	E	G	W	E	R	I	T	A	L	Y	®	B
H	O	H	H	E	V	L	I	A	S	Ⓐ	G	E
E	A	M	A	R	O	A	O	Ⓑ	U	N	M	T
R	A	R	P	B	N	O	C	N	R	A	D	R
Y	I	E	B	E	I	I	M	E	D	G	U	N
K	N	L	D	O	T	L	S	A	R	O	S	P
R	O	A	Y	N	U	I	I	T	N	O	T	I
A	T	Y	E	N	L	R	T	T	A	I	R	P
M	S	V	I	I	A	E	R	O	A	N	A	O
N	E	T	E	R	N	M	N	O	R	T	L	I
E	E	N	M	N	Q	A	R	I	S	I	L	T
D	C	E	I	E	L	E	V	N	A	A	O	Y
E	D	S	A	I	G	R	O	E	G	A	L	F

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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

NORTHERN MARIANAS : CIVIL ACTION
HOUSING CORPORATION. : NO. 07-419
Plaintiff, :
-v- :
JOHN KITALONG SIKYANG and :
MERCEDES JONES CASTRO, :
Defendants. :
:

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 9, 2012, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 045 A 12, situated in As Matus, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 944 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 045 A 002 dated July 12, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1670, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 14, 2018, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 3rd day of November, 2018.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: 670-234-6547
FAX: 670-234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the Estate of : CIVIL ACTION
ANTONIO GUILIMON ADRIANO, : NO. 18-0009
Deceased. :
:

AMENDED NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Diego M. Masga has filed an Amended Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Antonio Guilimon Adriano, Deceased; and that the said Amended Petition will be heard by the Court on December 20, 2018, at the hour of 9:00am, at the U.S. District Courthouse.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Antonio Guilimon Adriano, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: November 15, 2018

/s/ Clerk of Court

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- 5-Liner **\$24**

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Classified Ads

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Mavericks rookie Doncic torches Rockets



DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic started with a routine 3-pointer from the corner.

Then the Dallas rookie skipped back several feet behind the arc to hit one over Houston center Clint Capela, followed by a floater in the lane for a tie.

After faking a drive that sent Capela scrambling toward the basket, the 19-year-old Slovenian settled behind the 3-point line one more time, connecting again for the 26th lead change between the Mavericks and Rockets.

So much for a rough shooting night.

Doncic scored 11 straight points to erase an eight-point deficit late in the fourth quarter and the Mavericks went on to their ninth consecutive home victory, 107-104 over the Rockets on Saturday night.

"It's pretty clear that he's got a flair for the moment," Dallas coach Rick Carlisle said. "He's unafraid. You don't see that every day. It's a unique three or four minutes, whatever he put together there."

James Harden shrugged off early foul trouble to score 35 points, but missed all four of his 3-point tries in the fourth quarter. Two of them were during Doncic's flurry, along with Chris Paul missing a pair of free throws before Doncic's tying bucket.

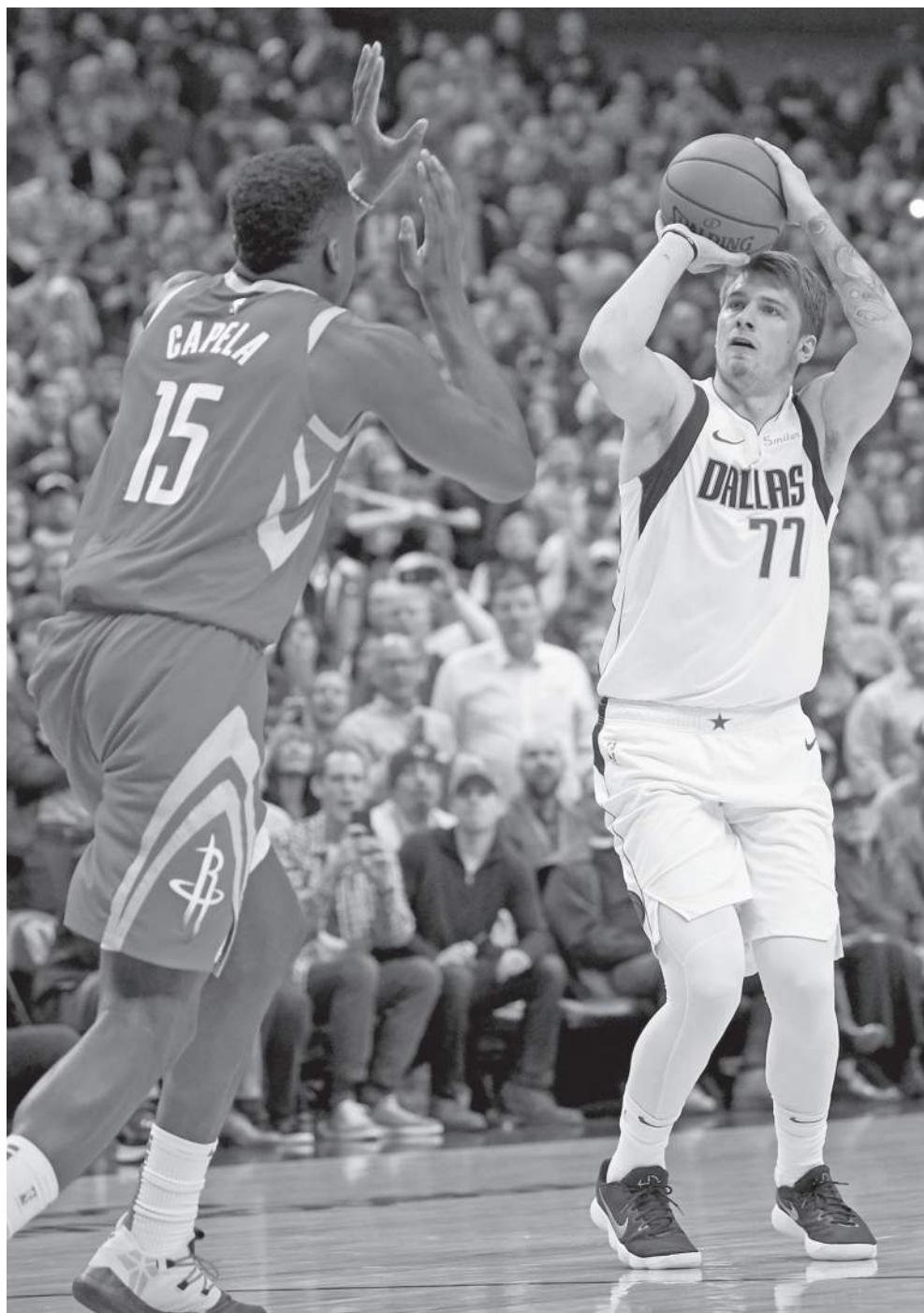
"The first thing I'd like to do different is make my free throws," said Paul, who scored 23 points while matching Harden with eight assists. "I think that's where, honestly, it ticked the game off. We were up two. Throws would have put us up four. They hit some step-backs."

Doncic was 3 of 13, and the Mavericks weren't too far removed from a nearly six-minute scoring drought in the fourth quarter when he made the first 3 with the Mavericks trailing 102-94, the largest Houston lead of the game.

"I wasn't playing great," said Doncic, who finished 7 of 17 with all three of his 3-pointers in that final stretch and had seven rebounds. "My game wasn't good at all. I get confident in the end of games. I would say that I feel comfortable."

Lost in the electrifying stretch by the third overall pick in last spring's draft was center DeAndre Jordan's backdoor bounce pass to rookie second-rounder Jalen Brunson.

The two-time NCAA champion from Villanova, making his second career start with Dennis Smith Jr. out because of a sprained right wrist, hit the twisting layup to get the Dallas lead back to three with



Dallas Mavericks forward Luka Doncic (77) shoots a 3-pointer over Houston Rockets center Clint Capela (15) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018, in Dallas.

Heat 121, Clippers 98

In Los Angeles, Dwyane Wade scored 25 points in his 1,000th career game, leading Miami past the Clippers.

Wade was 8 for 21 from the field and 5 for 10 from 3-point range. The veteran guard will play his final regular-season game in Los Angeles on Monday against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Tobias Harris scored 20 points and Lou Williams added 18 for the Clippers, who were just 7 of 29 from 3-point range and 33 for 89 from the field.

Miami was without guard Josh Richardson, who was a late scratch because of a shoulder impingement.

Hawks 106, Nuggets 98

In Atlanta, John Collins scored a career-high 30 points and reserves Vince Carter and DeAndre' Bembry fueled a third-

quarter rally to help Atlanta beat Denver.

Collins also had 12 rebounds and five assists.

Nikola Jokic had 24 points and 11 rebounds for Denver.

Nets 112, Knicks 104

In New York, Spencer Dinwiddie scored 25 points and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 20 in Brooklyn's victory over New York.

Allen Crabbe scored 17 points, and Jarrett Allen added 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Enes Kanter led the Knicks with 23 points and 14 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 113, Timberwolves 105

In Portland, Damian Lillard and CJ McCollum each hit 3-pointers in the final minute to give Portland a victory over Minnesota.

Lillard finished with 28 points and eight assists, while McCollum added 19 points. Jusuf Nurkic matched his season-high with 22 points and 11 rebounds.

Andrew Wiggins had 22 points for Minnesota, which had won two straight and six of its last seven games.

Nationals owner Lerner not expecting Harper to return



WASHINGTON—NATIONALS OWNER

Mark Lerner seems resigned to the fact that Bryce Harper will be signing elsewhere this winter.

At Nationals Park introducing pitcher Patrick Corbin last weekend, Lerner spoke at length with 106.7 radio about the chances of Harper returning to Washington. Harper declined a 10-year, \$300 million offer from the Nationals in September.

"When we met with them and we gave them the offer, we told them, 'This is the best we can do.' We went right to the finish line very quickly," Lerner said. "And we said, 'If this is of interest to you, please come back to us and we'll see whether we can finish it up.' But we just couldn't afford to put more than that in and still be able to put a team together that had a chance to win the NL East or go farther than that."

Harper was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 draft. He won the NL Rookie of the Year award in 2012, the NL MVP award in 2015 and has been an All-Star in six of his seven seasons in the majors.

"This was a special six years. And he'll still be iconic in the city, when he comes in playing for another team. We'll do right by him and have a real ceremony. You can't be mad at him, and I don't think he'd be mad at us if we can't go any further."

starters who played at least 36 minutes in the 133-120 loss to the Spurs.

"You forget about (the loss) and move on," James said, adding, "You can't let that harp on us, even though we played three great quarters (against San Antonio). You have to get ready, and that's what we did."

Cavaliers 116, Wizards 101

In Cleveland, rookie Collin Sexton matched a career high with 29 points, Tristan Thompson had 23 points and 19 rebounds and Cleveland beat Washington.

Wizards guard John Wall was held to a career low one point in 26 minutes — a free throw early in the third quarter with Cleveland holding a 74-48 lead. Wall returned after missing Washington's victory Wednesday night over Atlanta because of personal reasons.

The five-time All-Star, who didn't participate in the shoot-around Saturday because he was under the weather, missed all five shots and had six assists. Wall was taken out late in the third quarter and didn't return.

Celtics 133, Bulls 77

In Chicago, Jaylen Brown scored 23 points, Daniel Theis added a career-high 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Boston routed Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

The 56-point loss was the worst in Bulls' history, eclipsing a 53-point (127-74) defeat at Minnesota on Nov. 8, 2001.

Jayson Tatum had 18 points and Terry Rozier added 15 as the Celtics used a 17-0 start and a balanced attack to roll their second straight lopsided win. Shaquille Harrison came off the bench to score a career-high 20 points for the Chicago.

Pacers 107, Kings 97

In Indianapolis, Thaddeus Young had a season-high 20 points and nine rebounds, and Bojan Bogdanovic added 18 points to help Indiana beat Sacramento.

Playing their 10th straight game without injured All-Star Victor Oladipo, the Pacers relied on defense and scoring balance. Myles Turner contributed nine points, 13 rebounds and four blocked shots, while Domantas Sabonis and Darren Collison each scored 14 points.

move on. There's just too much money out there that he'd be leaving on the table," Lerner said. "That's just not (agent Scott) Boras' MO to leave money on the table."

The 26-year-old could fetch the largest contract in baseball history, a mark currently held by the 13-year, \$325 million deal that Giancarlo Stanton signed with the Miami Marlins.

"If they choose some other place, I totally understand," Lerner said. "It's the opportunity of a lifetime for Bryce and (wife) Kayla and their family. But we have no hard feelings about it, I must say. I love Bryce and he was a good teammate here. If he chooses to go some place else, I totally understand it, but we put one heck of an offer out there."

Harper has been with the organization since he was 17 years old and has been a key part of the club's success this decade, including four post-season appearances.

"This was a special six years. And he'll still be iconic in the city, when he comes in playing for another team. We'll do right by him and have a real ceremony. You can't be mad at him, and I don't think he'd be mad at us if we can't go any further."

Holloway wins gutsy title fight versus Ortega

TORONTO—As hard as he tried, and as many strikes as he landed, Max Holloway couldn't put Brian Ortega out or make him quit.

But after battering the face of Ortega (14-1 MMA, 6-1 UFC) and closing his left eye, Holloway (20-3 MMA, 16-3 UFC) got a little help from the cageside doctor, who urged a stoppage at the end of Round 4, resulting in a TKO victory for the defending UFC featherweight champ.

The featherweight title bout was the main event of Saturday's UFC 231 show at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto. It aired on pay-per-view following prelims on FS1 and UFC Fight Pass.

From the start, Holloway proved himself to be the smoother, cleaner striker, tagging Ortega with aggressive combinations and overwhelming him with sheer offensive output.

But despite eating several stinging punches in the opening round, Ortega wasn't about to go away easily. With his nose bloodied early, he didn't land as often as Holloway, but he did fire back hard, landing some heavy counters that appeared to hurt Holloway at times.

What Ortega couldn't seem



to do was nab a takedown when he needed it, which kept him from bringing his feared submission game into the equation. And while Holloway sometimes needed a little time to extricate himself from Ortega's clinch, when he did he quickly went right back to peppering him with punches, pausing every so often to pose and taunt his foe.

She is now in Korea, training and is thankful for the high-level competitions she had this year.

motional playoff in Isa Town, Bahrain early this year. Lee and her teammates were undefeated in the Group II contest, as they also prevailed against Oman, Malaysia, and Iran in the elimination round.

Pacific Oceania was promoted to Group I along with Indonesia (winner over Uzbekistan) and they will join China, India, South Korea, Thailand, and the host country in the 2019 competition.

Meanwhile, Lee's inclusion on the Fed Cup team was announced a few days after she completed her six tournaments in a span of nearly three months.

AGAPE

From Page 24

week after the storm ransacked a majority of the island. Most remarkably, Agape's school operations didn't miss a beat and it resumed classes on Oct. 26.

"On one hand, we felt really saddened by the typhoon situation," Agape head coach En Yang Pang stated. "On the other hand, we were also very thankful that we were able to get back right into the swing of things."

The Torchbearers are grateful for their ability to weather



AP
Max Holloway, right, fights Brian Ortega during the featherweight championship mixed martial arts bout at UFC 231 in Toronto on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018.

stool across the cage, then leaped over the fence to celebrate with his team and his son.

"I told them in the corner that this was the round," Holloway said after the fight. "All respect to Ortega, he's a great fighter and we will probably keep fighting each other until we're both heavyweights. Toronto is the 10th Island but I'm ready for the UFC to take me home and let's do one in Hawaii. Like I said leading up to the fight, whether it's staying down here and defending, going up to 155 or even fighting my brother, 'The Daddest Man on the Planet,' Daniel Cormier, I'm here for all of it. Let's go!"

With the victory, Holloway not only retains his title, but also extends his winning streak to 13 straight fights. Ortega's loss is the first of his professional career.

Texans could sneak past Pats, Chiefs to top AFC



HOUSTON

(AP)—Here's a crazy thought: The Houston Texans with home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

Yep, the team that began the season 0-3 just might sneak past the Chiefs and Patriots and claim that coveted spot.

The Texans have won nine in a row. They've done so in all sorts of ways, from strong defense to opportunistic offense to solid special teams to superb coaching.

On Sunday, they face Indianapolis (6-6) and can pretty much knock the Colts out of postseason contention with a win.

Indianapolis has won three

rounds, Ortega's left eye had ballooned to a swollen purple mass, which proved to be enough to bring the doctor into the cage before the fifth and final round.

With Ortega's swollen eye threatening to compromise his vision, the doctor asked for the bout to be stopped, much to Ortega's dismay. Holloway looked up to receive the news from his

playing for much more than just the division right now. We're trying to play for first, second, third seed, whoever is ahead of us right now."

Should Houston get by the Colts, the remainder of the schedule has visits to the Jets and Eagles and a home finale against Jacksonville. Considering that two-month string of wins, why can't the Texans run the table?

"It's a small accomplishment," says defensive end Jadeveon Clowney, who has justified being the top overall pick in the 2014 draft. "We still haven't even won the division with winning nine in a row, we have no playoff spot, nothing right now locked up."

"So, it's a small accomplishment, but hopefully it will lead to bigger things for us. We're

that would be Kansas City (10-2) and New England (also 9-3). Both have a more testing December.

"I think it's when you start to look ahead, or you start to get overly excited about accomplishments that, not don't mean anything, but winning nine in a row, winning a division, you take things one day at a time," J.J. Watt adds.

"I think that's the biggest mentality I've taken away from it all is just control what you can control. If you try to start controlling things that you can't control, then you can get in trouble."

DEBUT

From Page 24

The early stages of the opening set featured a back-and-forth slugfest with the opposing teams engaged in a deadlock, 16-16. With the game tied, the Knights scrambled on defense and Brian Youn stepped up to successfully deliver four consecutive serves and push the score to 20-16, in MCS' favor.

With the set slipping away from their grip, Agape spikers Peter Wang and Kobe Yang launched several spikes and Silas Xu delivered for the Knights, having a string of four consecutive serves and setting up their spikers throughout the set to hand MCS the lead, 21-17.

an impressive comeback.

The second and final set mirrored the neck-and-neck nature of the first match, with the opposing squads exchanging leads throughout the game.

MCS team captain Eric Kiser made sure his squad kept pace with the high-flying Torchbearer frontline by capitalizing on his spikes and making several key defensive plays. James San Nicolas, who was one of the younger players on the court, also delivered for the Knights, having a string of four consecutive serves and setting up their spikers throughout the set to hand MCS the lead, 21-17.

With Agape facing a four-point deficit, Mark Shao, Wang, and Yang synergized on offense and made several well-timed blocks to force a tie, 24-24. Shao, a towering figure who played spectacular defense throughout both sets, then iced the game at with two consecutive serves.

When asked how Agape managed to recover in both sets to steal the win from the Knights, Pang attributed their victory to their calm and level-headed plays.

"I told my boys to calm down because sometimes they easily get flustered and they're emotional about the game, so they tend to react a little too

much," Pang said. "I told them to calm down and use their heads to play the game and not their emotions."

Meanwhile, matches in the high school league will resume tomorrow. Grace Christian Academy's high school girls team will be taking on MCS' junior varsity team at 3:30pm at GCA's home court, while ACS's high school girls team will be hosting Saipan International School 2 at 3:30pm. MCS' high school boys team will be playing against SIS 1 at MCS' grass courts and MCS' high school girls varsity squad will be challenging SIS 1 at the Knights court at 4:30pm.



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Saipan Tribune Sports



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Agape set for historic title



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An Agape Christian School 1 player goes for an underhand serve during a regular season game in the CCOPSA middle school volleyball league at the ACS court.

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanrob@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Agape School Christian School has already made history by advancing to the finals of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League, but is looking to further cement its legacy in the competition by bringing home its first championship trophy.

Agape rallies past MCS to win season debut

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanrob@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Agape Christian School one-upped Mt. Carmel School

in their season debuts in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association High School Volleyball League.

The Torchbearers and Knights played their first game of the season last Thursday at the former's home turf in Gualo Rai with Agape pull-

ing off a come-from-behind win, 25-23, 27-25.

"I came into this game not expecting too much, but I also know how much work that my boys put in—whether it was this year or in the years before," Agape coach En Yang Pang said after the game. "I know that they have the desire to play, and I'm glad that it showed on the court on this first game."

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ROBY PAMINTUAN
An Agape Christian School player sets up his teammate during their season debut game against Mt. Carmel School in the CCOPSA high school volleyball league last Thursday at the Agape court in Middle Road.



undefeated in the last three seasons and has a rich championship experience, having been in the finale several times and snagging the division title in the last two editions of the competition.



Despite facing the challenge of the intimidating middle school volleyball program of the Eagles, Agape 1 team captain David Zheng is confident that their team still has a good chance against the heavily favored GCA 1.

"We feel that we can win," Zheng said. "I think that both teams are quite equal."

When asked about the se-

crets to the team's growth in maturity and skill in the last three years that led to Agape's first finals appearance in the league, Zheng boiled it down to two main ingredients: unwavering faith and a solid work ethic.

"First and foremost, we trust in God, and secondly, we also train hard," Zheng said. "We always pray to God that He would be with us."

Because Agape Christian School's campus was left relatively unscathed by Super Typhoon Yutu, their middle school and high school teams were able to resume practice a

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Carol makes Pacific Oceania Fed Cup Team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the third straight time, the CNMI's Carol Lee has been selected to represent Pacific Oceania in the prestigious Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone.

Joining Lee on the elite squad are Papua New Guinea's Violet Apisah and Abigail Tere-Apisah, Samoa's Steffi Carruthers and captain Gilles de Gouy of Tahiti.

"I'm honored to be chosen on the Pacific Oceania Fed Cup Team, again. I am

thankful for this opportunity, as I know I will gain more experience playing against tough players. We will do our best," said Lee.

Lee and company will be playing in Group I of the 2019 Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone, which will take place at the indoor court of the Daulet National Tennis Centre, in Astana, Kazakhstan from Feb. 6 to 9.

Pacific Oceania made it to Group I after beating Singapore, 2-1, in the pro-

See CAROL on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee has been selected on the Pacific Oceania Fed Cup Team that will compete in Kazakhstan next year.